

BEASTARS

Volume 16



Story & Art by
Paru Itagaki



BEASTARS

Volume 16

Story & Art by
Paru Itagaki

Louis



- ★Red deer ♂
- ★Former leader of the Drama Club actors pool
- ★Former leader of the Shishi-gumi lion gang
- ★Offered his leg to Legoshi so he could defeat Riz

Haru



- ★Netherland dwarf rabbit ♀
- ★University student

Sagwan



- ★Spotted seal ♂
- ★A half-marine, half-land animal
- ★Resident of Beast Apartments

Gosha



- ★Komodo dragon ♂
- ★Legoshi's grandfather
- ★Has a history with Beastar Yahya

Leanno

- ★Legoshi's beautiful mother
- ★Gosha's daughter
- ★Why did she take her own life?

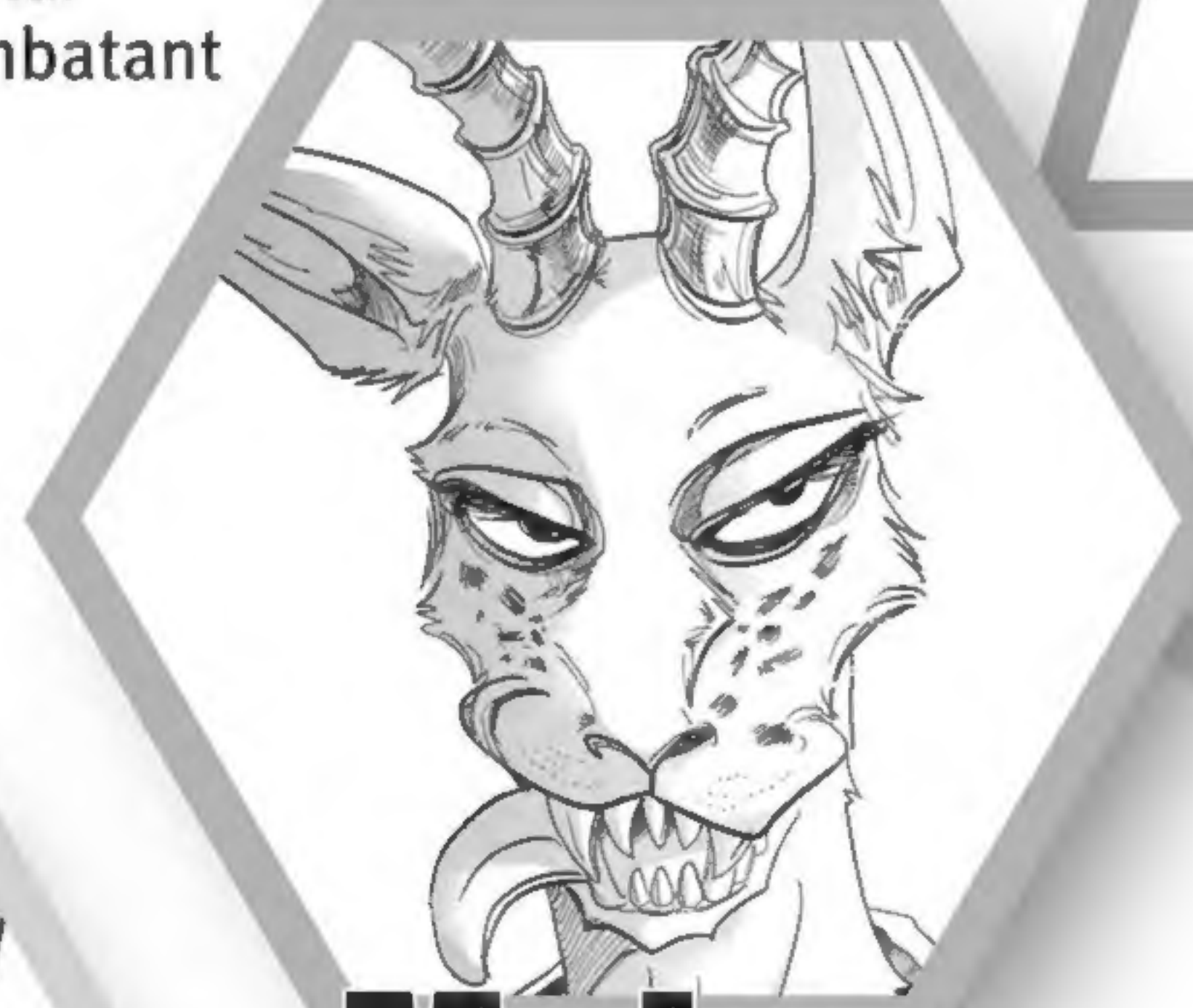


Yahya



- ★Horse ♂
- ★Current Beastar
- ★Powerful combatant

Melon



- ★Half-leopard, half-gazelle ♂
- ★Elephant poacher who sells tusks on the black market

STORY & CAST OF CHARACTERS

Legoshi has been designated a registered meat offender after consensually eating his friend Louis's leg to give him the strength to defeat Riz, the bear who murdered their friend Tem. Now Legoshi has dropped out of school and is working at Bebebe, an udon noodle shop. Legoshi's feelings for Haru deepen after he has dinner with her family. But not only is he a carnivore, his criminal record also stands in the way of them ever getting married.

When Beastar Yahya asks Legoshi to help him capture elephant-poacher Melon, despite Legoshi's doubts about Yahya's moral compass, he agrees to assist him in exchange for having his criminal record erased. Legoshi is also curious to meet Melon because he is half-carnivore, half-herbivore. Legoshi and Yahya go undercover at a masked ball and apprehend Melon. Legoshi believes Melon is like the children he and Haru might have one day, so he takes pity on him and sets him free. Instead of being grateful, Melon shoots Legoshi in the chest, critically wounding him.



As Legoshi hovers between life and death, he meets his late mother, mixed-species Leanno, who committed suicide when Legoshi was young. She tries to explain to her son why she became so depressed, telling him about her fears of being rejected by a society that wouldn't accept mixed-species beasts.

Legoshi

- ★Gray wolf ♂
- ★Former Cherryton Academy student
- ★Ate his friend Louis's leg to defeat Riz
- ★Lives alone at Beast Apartments

BEASTARS

Volume 16

CONTENTS

134

Final Contact.....7

135

Sweet Clouds of Steam and Green
Japanese Peppercorns.....27

136

A Shredded Drinking Straw Is Our EKG.....47

137

Departure from Shangri-La.....69

138

A Fleeting 21,500 Years.....89

139

The Crimson Sky, Plowing the Field.....109

140

Training an Actor to Perform Tragedy.....129

141

Trapping a Mermaid's Song in a Bubble.....150

142

Beasts Can Live as Long as a
Century Now?!.....173



Chapter 134: Final Contact

HOW WAS
SCHOOL TODAY,
LEGOSHI?

THERE
WERE A LOT OF
DANDELIONS
BLOOMING ON MY
WAY HOME, SO
I PICKED SOME
FOR YOU,
MOM.



WE
CHANGED
SEATS, SO
I GET TO SIT
CLOSER TO
MY FRIEND
NOW.



WHAT A
GOOD BOY
YOU ARE.



I'LL
CUT THE
STEMS IN
WATER
AND
ARRANGE
THEM.

THESE
FLOWERS
ARE
LOVELY.



WE CAN GET
ONE AT THE
FLORIST IN
THE SHOPPING
DISTRICT RIGHT
AROUND THE
CORNER...

TH-THEN,
DON'T WE
NEED TO GO
BUY A VASE
TOGETHER?

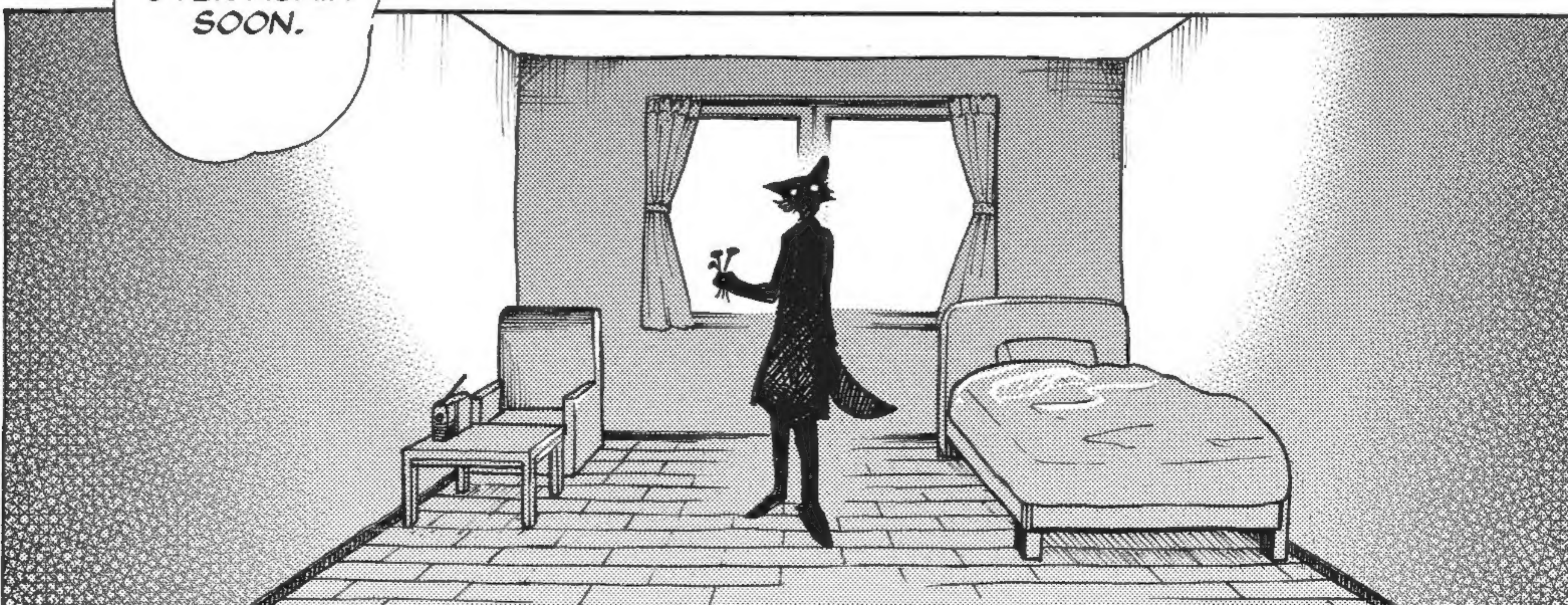
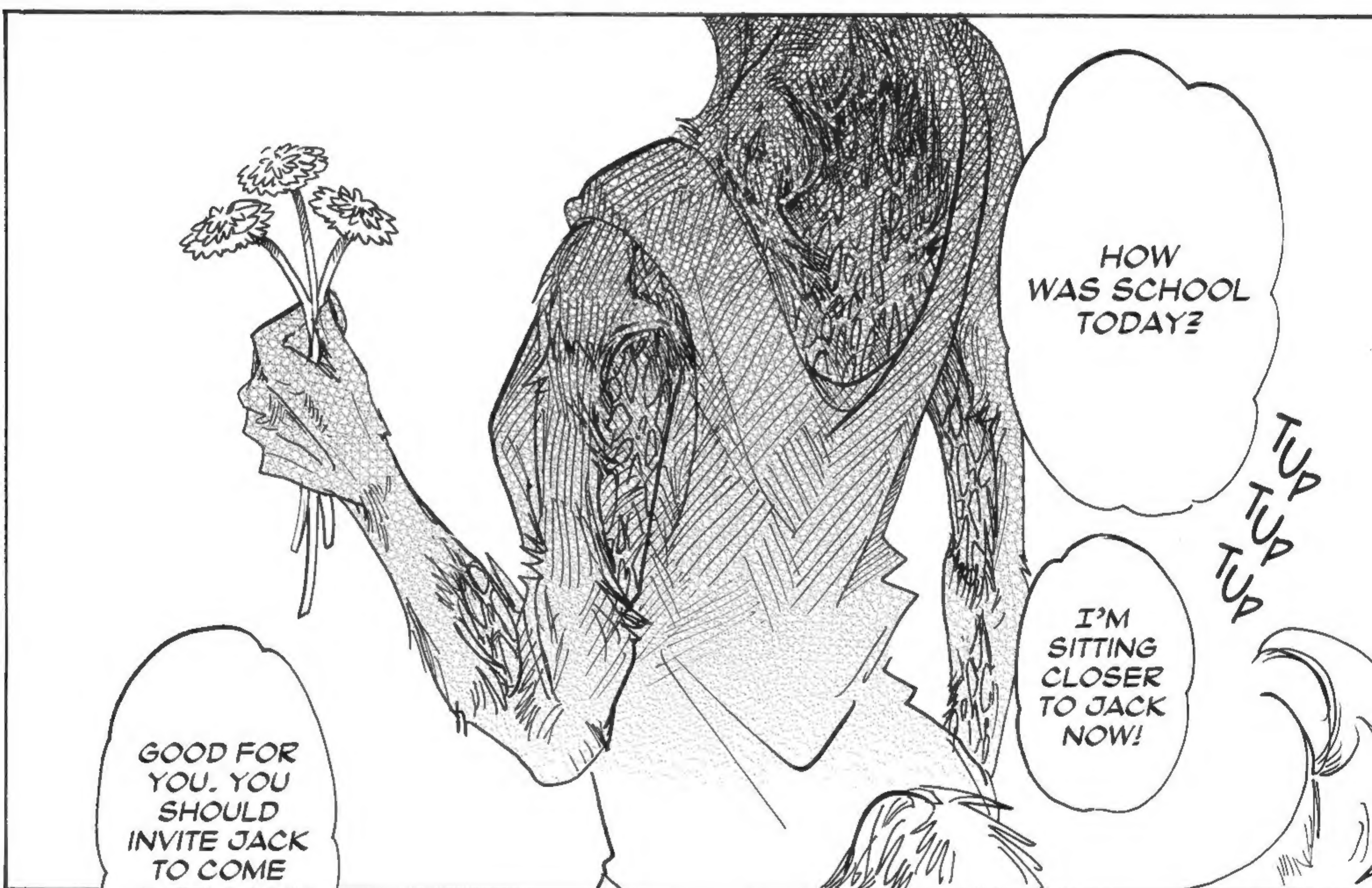


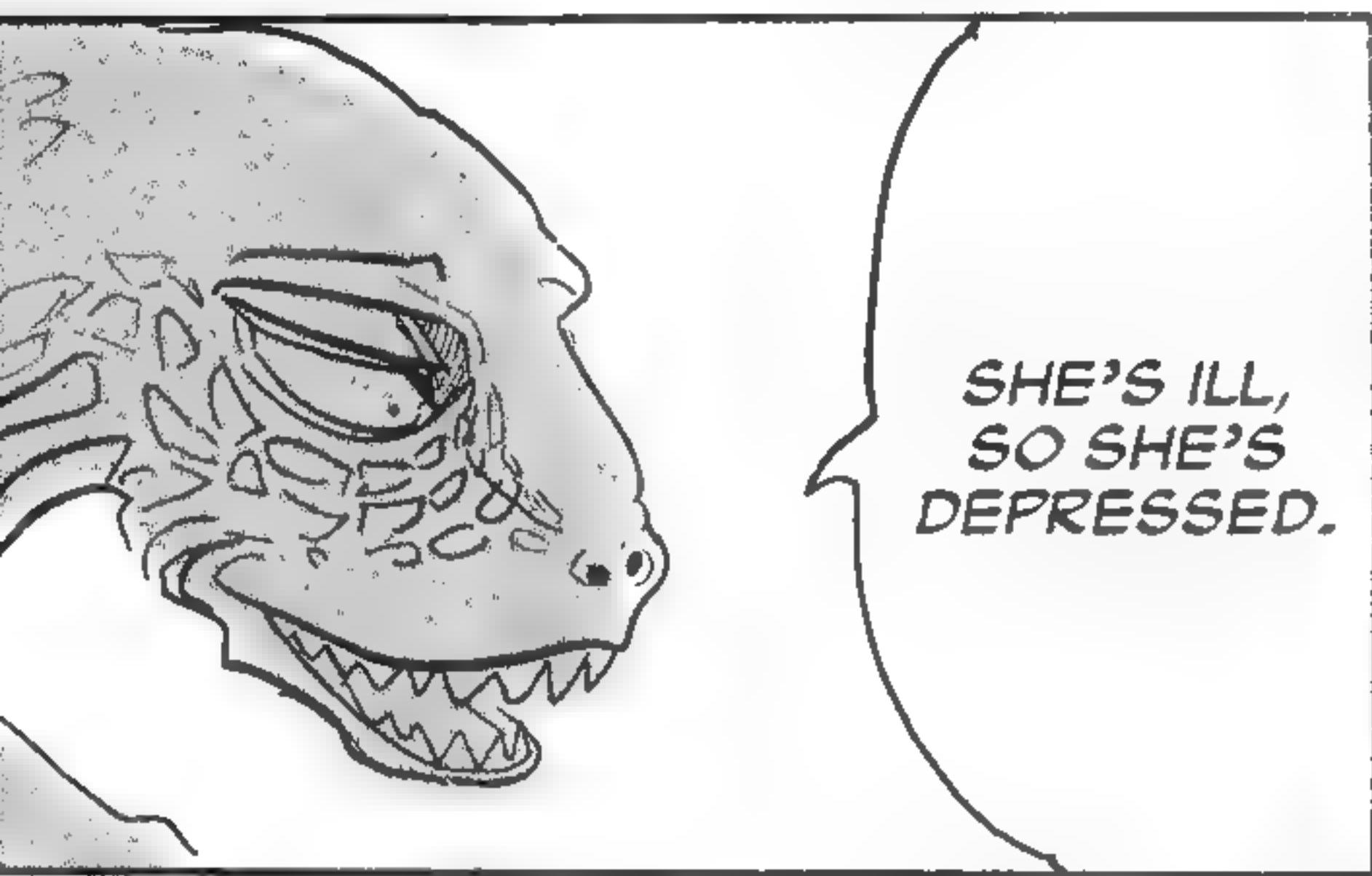
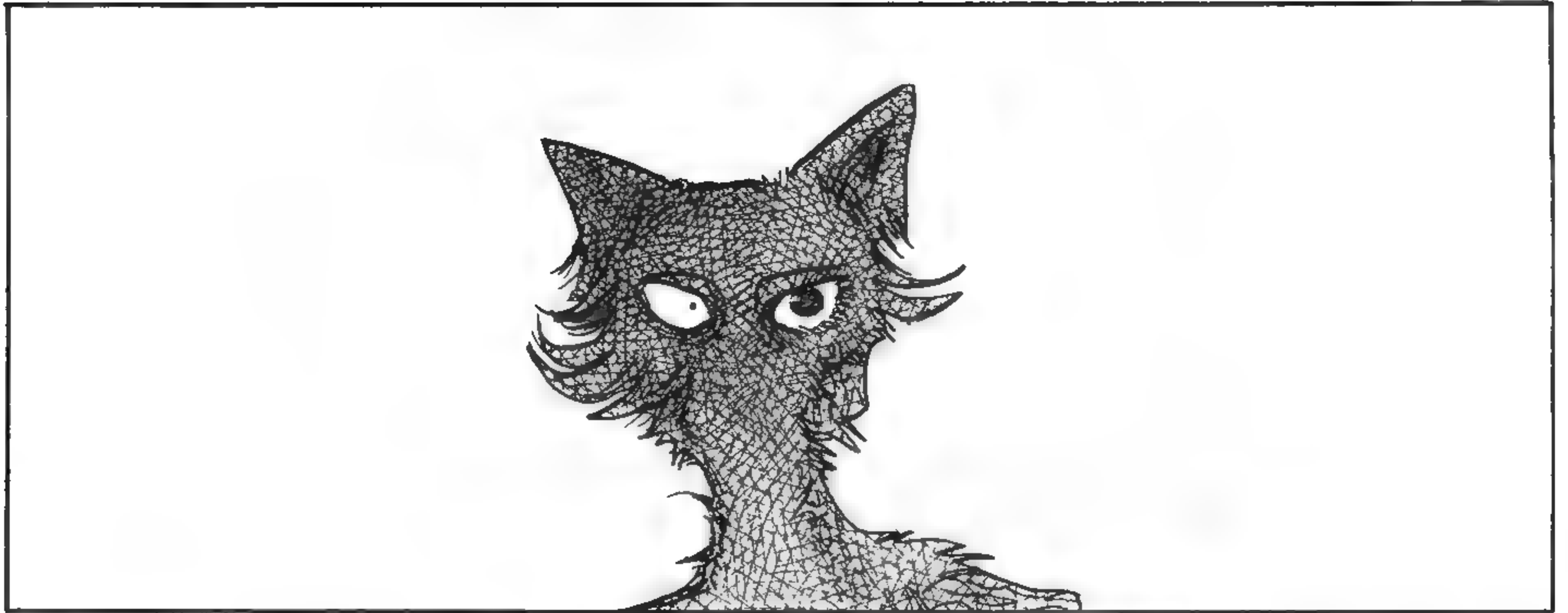
LEGOSHI!
YOU'RE
HOME!

I'M
SORRY,
SWEETIE
...

I'M
AFRAID TO
GO OUT
INTO THE
WORLD...









BY THE TIME
YOU WERE IN
GRADE SCHOOL,
I COULDN'T
BEAR TO SHOW
MYSELF EVEN
TO MY FAMILY.



YOU
KNEW...?

I'M SORRY I
WASN'T THERE FOR
YOU WHEN YOU
NEEDED ME MOST.
BUT I'M ONLY A
SPIRIT NOW, SO
IT'S TOO LATE TO
MAKE AMENDS.



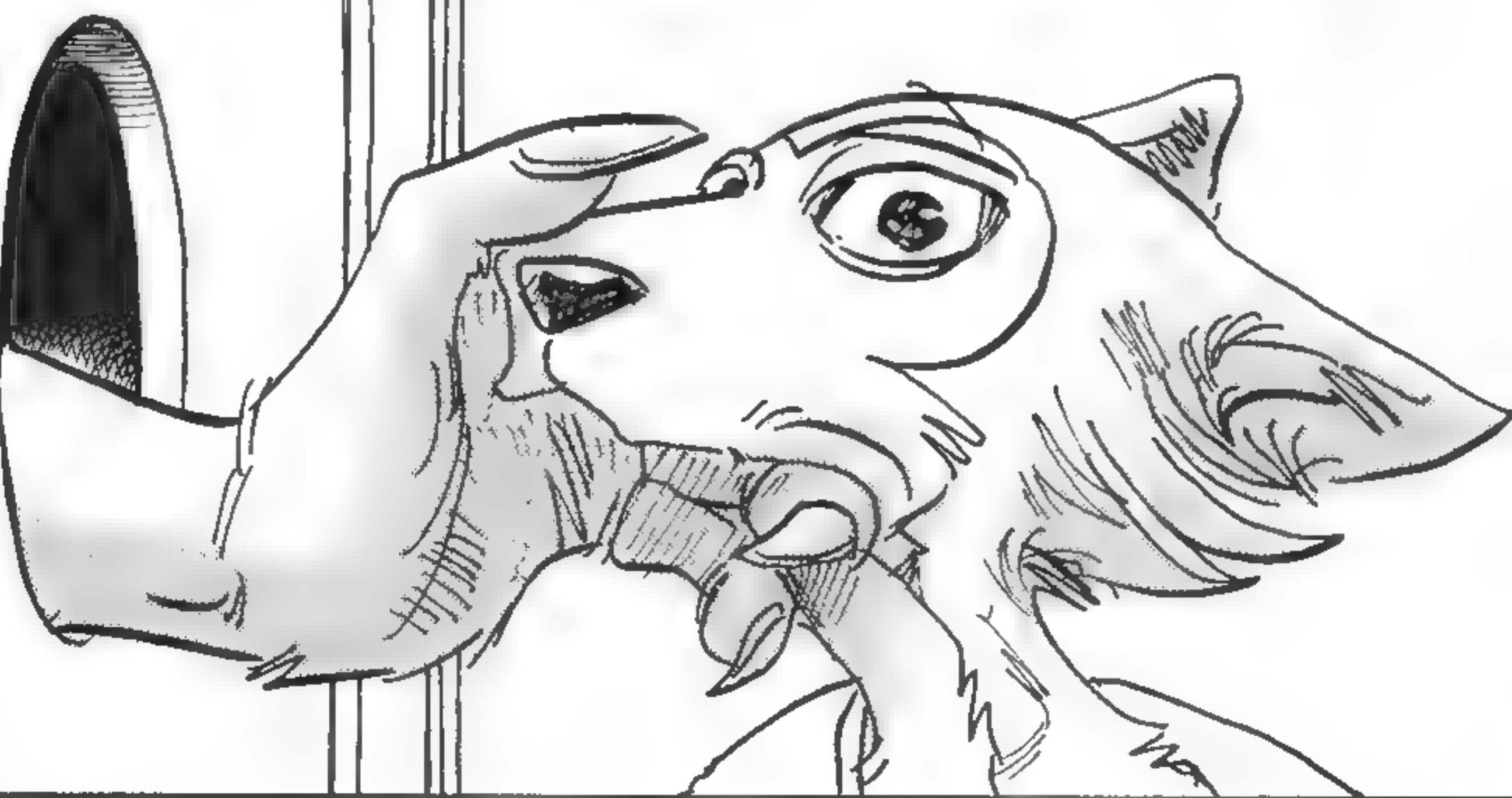
I COULD TELL
YOU WORRIED
ABOUT WHAT
I LOOKED LIKE
WHEN YOU PUT
YOUR HAND
THROUGH THE
HOLE IN YOUR
DOOR.

WELL...
I KIND OF
FIGURED OUT THE
REASON YOU'D
SHUT YOURSELF UP
IN YOUR ROOM HAD
SOMETHING TO DO
WITH YOUR
APPEARANCE.





YOU
PRETENDED
YOU WERE
JUST STROK-
ING MY FUR,
BUT YOU WERE
ACTUALLY
FEELING MY
FACE...



...TO
CHECK MY
FEATURES.

SO YOU
KNEW...
BUT IT WAS
ALL ONLY
OUT OF
LOVE FOR
YOU.





I DIDN'T
WANT MY
LITTLE BOY TO
GROW UP TO
LOOK LIKE
ME!

I WAS
DESPERATE
TO KNOW
WHETHER
YOU WERE
STARTING
TO GET
SCALES
TOO.

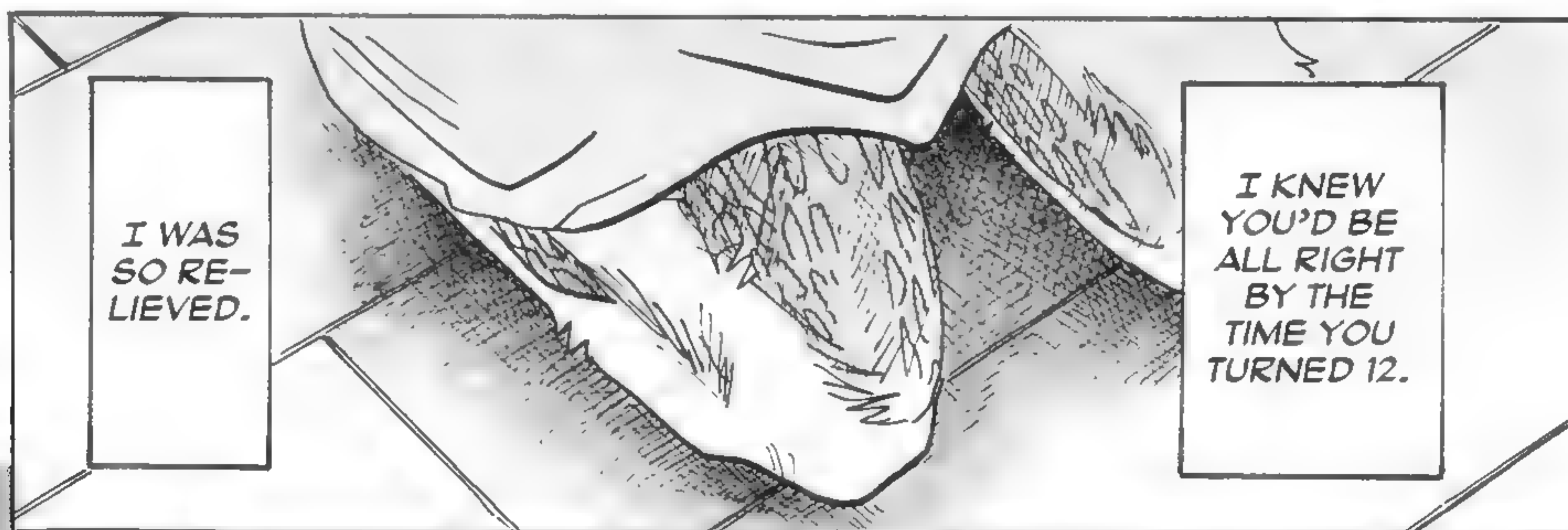
BUT
YOU RE-
MAINED
JUST
AS I'D
HOPED.

BEAUTI-
FUL FUR.

STRONG
AND
HEALTHY.

I WAS
CONFIDENT
YOU'D
GROW UP
LOOKING
LIKE A
NORMAL
GRAY
WOLF.

PHEW





...TO
SAY
GOOD-
BYE TO
MY BE-
LOVED
SON.

THE
TIME
HAS
COME
...

LEGOSHI...







...I HELD YOU
IN MY ARMS
AND SLEPT
BESIDE YOU
FOR A WHILE.

ON THE
NIGHT
BEFORE I
ENDED MY
LIFE...



I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T SAY
GOODBYE...
I WAS A SELF-
ABSORBED
MOTHER UNTIL
THE VERY
END.

WHAT
?

I'M SORRY
I WASN'T
HONEST
EITHER...

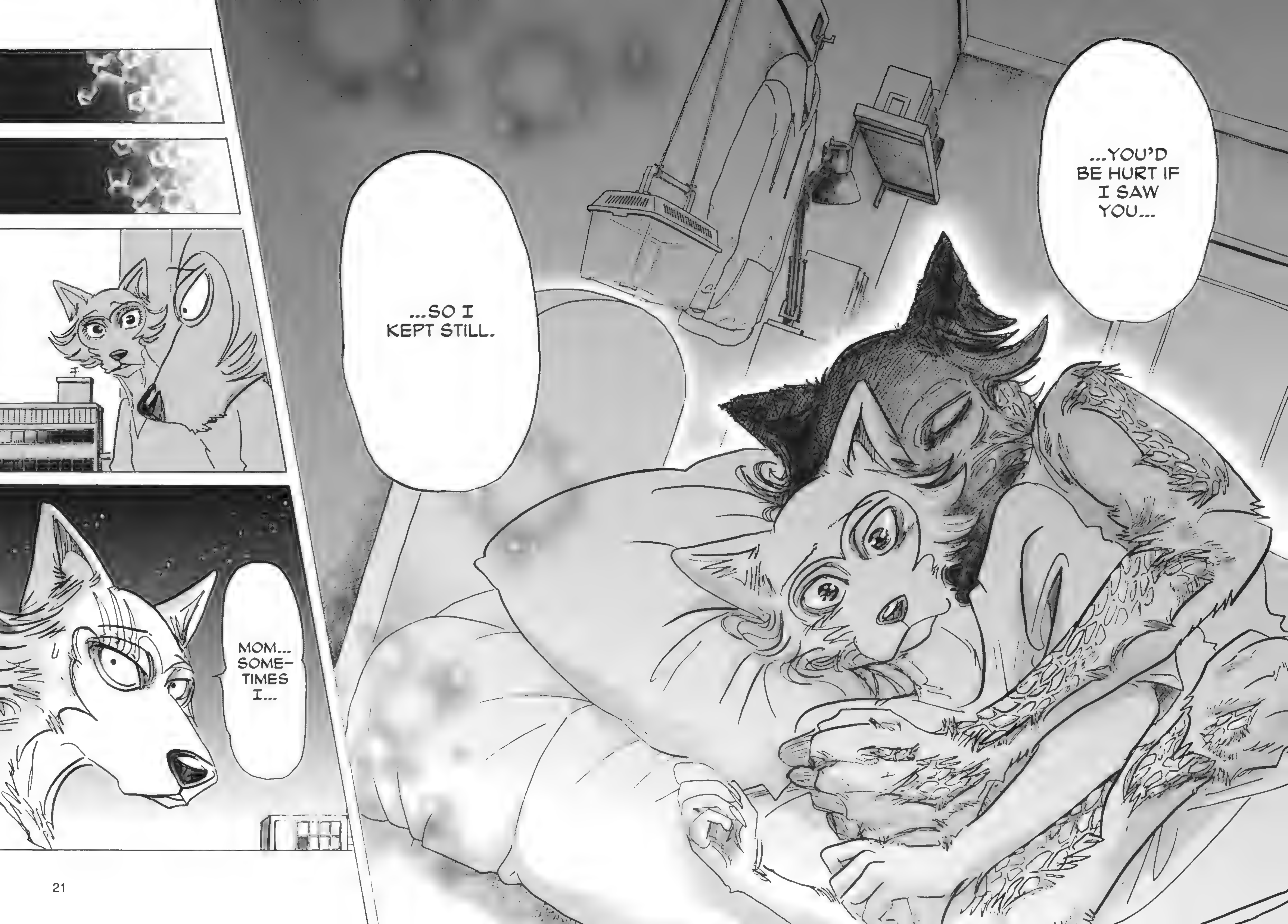


I
WANTED
TO HUG
YOU. I
WANTED
TO LOOK
AT YOUR
FACE.

BUT I
KNEW...

...YOU CAME
TO MY BED
AFTER BEING
SO DISTANT
FOR SO LONG
ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
DOOR.

I WAS
SO SUR-
PRISED
AND
HAPPY
THAT...



...YOU'D
BE HURT IF
I SAW
YOU...

...SO I
KEPT STILL.

MOM...
SOME-
TIMES
I...



IF I HADN'T
HELD IN MY
FEELINGS...
IF I'D TURNED
TO LOOK AT YOU...
I MIGHT HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO
STOP YOU FROM
KILLING
YOURSELF.

...REGRET
WHAT I
DID THAT
NIGHT.



...LOST
MY LIFE.

...I
ALMOST...

I LET MY
EMOTIONS
GET THE
BETTER OF
ME, AND
BECAUSE
OF THAT...

THAT'S WHY
JUST NOW...
I HONORED
MY FEELINGS
AND TRIED
TO CONNECT
WITH A HALF-
CARNIVORE,
HALF-
HERBIVORE
BEAST.



I'M SO
STUPID
AND FULL
OF RE-
GRETS!

SIGH...
I ALWAYS
MAKE THE
WRONG
CHOICE
WHEN
THERE'S
THE MOST
AT STAKE!



THAT
ALONE
MADE MY
LIFE A
PERFECT
SUCCESS.

...BUT
I ALSO
GAVE
BIRTH TO
YOU.

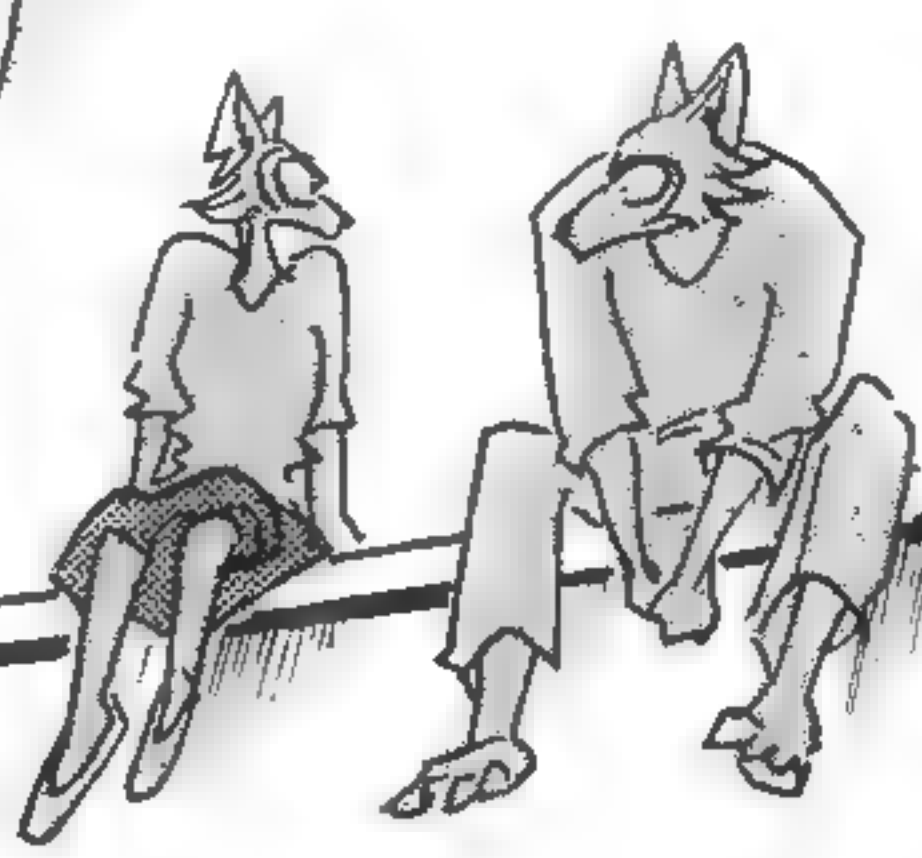


BUT IF
YOU KEEP ON
LIVING, YOU
CAN CANCEL
THEM OUT.

LIFE IS
A NEVER-
ENDING
CHAIN OF
REGRETS.



MY LIFE
WAS FULL
OF RE-
GRETS...



BUT
I CAN'T
HOLD YOU
ANYMORE.

MY SON...
YOU'RE
AMAZING.

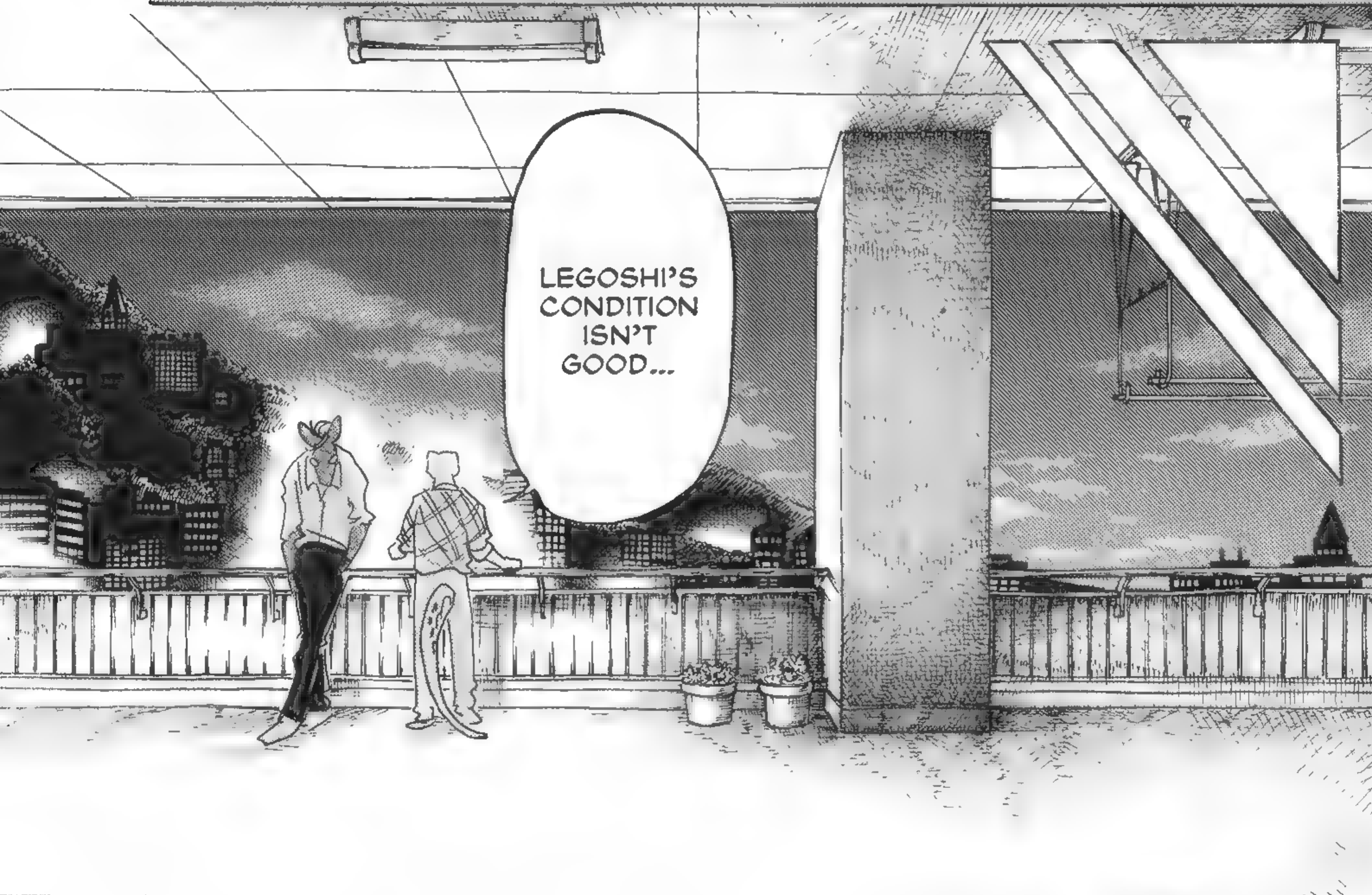
I'M
SORRY I
WAS A BAD
MOTHER.

Central A



LEGOSHI,
I WANT
YOU TO
LIVE.

YOU
INHERITED
MY BLOOD
AND
GRANDPA'S
BLOOD...





KR K

BUT
THAT'S
ONLY
IF...

...LEGOSHI
SURVIVES
AND
WAKES
UP.



A MOMENT AGO, HE LOOKED LIKE ANY GRANDFATHER
WORRIED ABOUT HIS GRANDSON.



BUT NOW HE'S SHOWING HIS FEROCIOUS
KOMODO DRAGON SIDE.

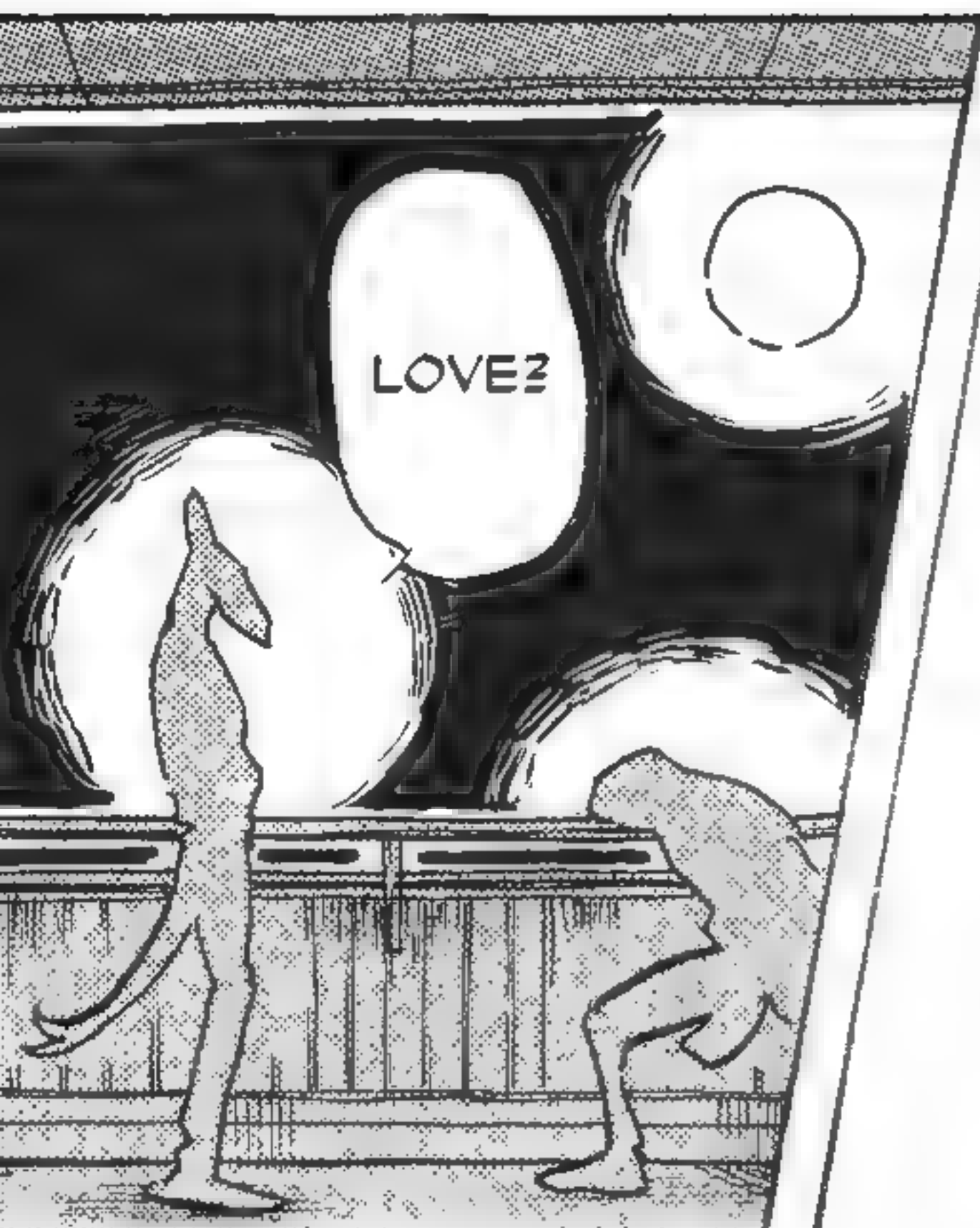




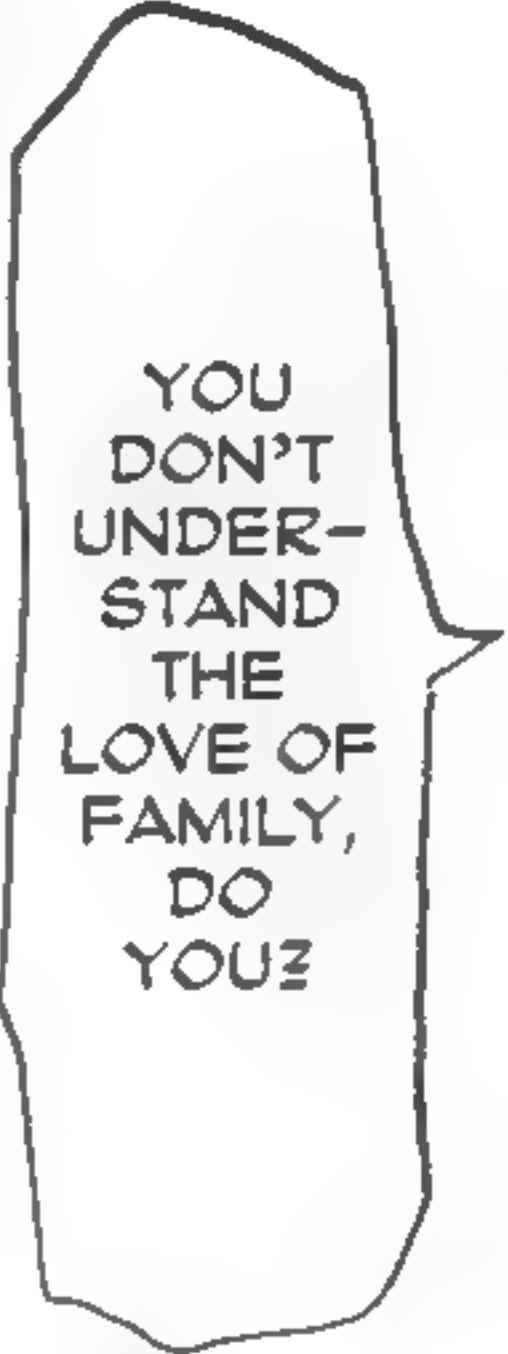
OR IS
THAT JUST
ANOTHER
ASPECT
OF YOUR
GRAND-
FATHER
PERSONA,
GOSHA?

Chapter 135:

Sweet Clouds of Steam and Green Japanese Peppercorns



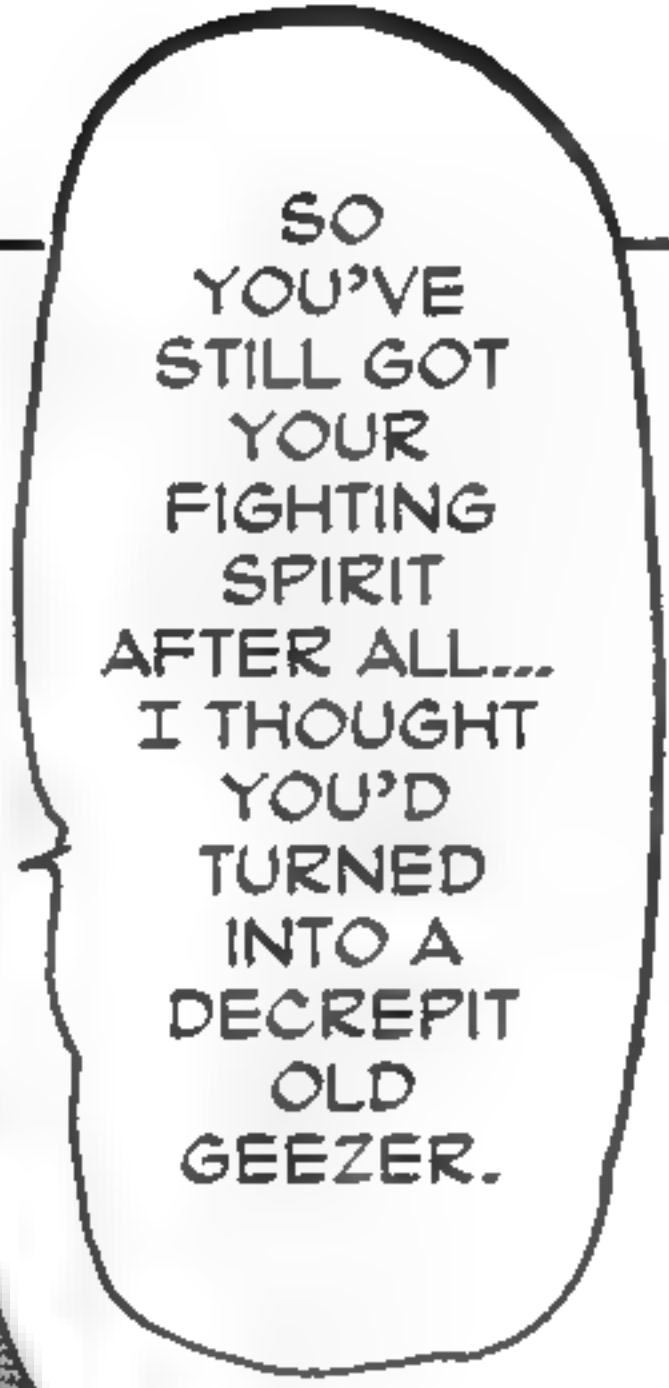
LOVE?



YOU DON'T UNDER-
STAND
THE
LOVE OF
FAMILY,
DO
YOU?



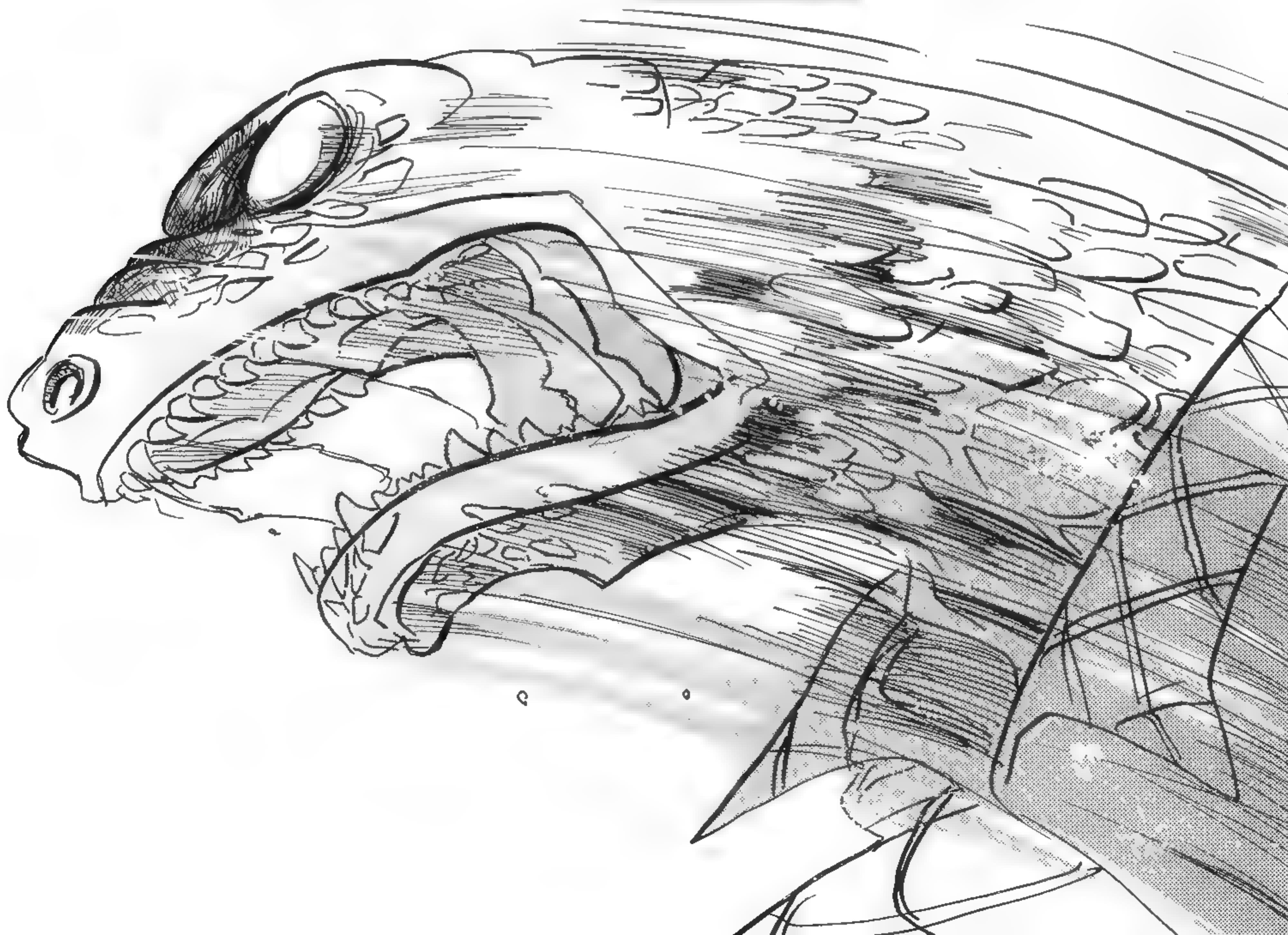
NOT
WHEN
IT
COMES
TO
LEGO-
SHI!



SO
YOU'VE
STILL GOT
YOUR
FIGHTING
SPIRIT
AFTER ALL...
I THOUGHT
YOU'D
TURNED
INTO A
DECREPIT
OLD
GEEZER.



THAT'S
OUTSIDE MY
AREA OF
EXPERTISE.





I'M MUCH
BETTER AT
COMMU-
NICATING
WITH MY
FISTS.

AGH
!

GRAB



PERMIT
ME TO
EXPLAIN,
GOSHA...

HNGH!



I ONLY
PLANNED
TO HAVE
HIM ASSIST
ME ONCE.
I THOUGHT
HE WAS
THE RIGHT
CHOICE—
ASSUMING
HE'D
INHERITED
YOUR
FIGHTING
SKILLS...

I'M
SORRY FOR
INVOLVING
YOUR
GRANDSON
IN A
DANGEROUS
INVESTI-
GATION.



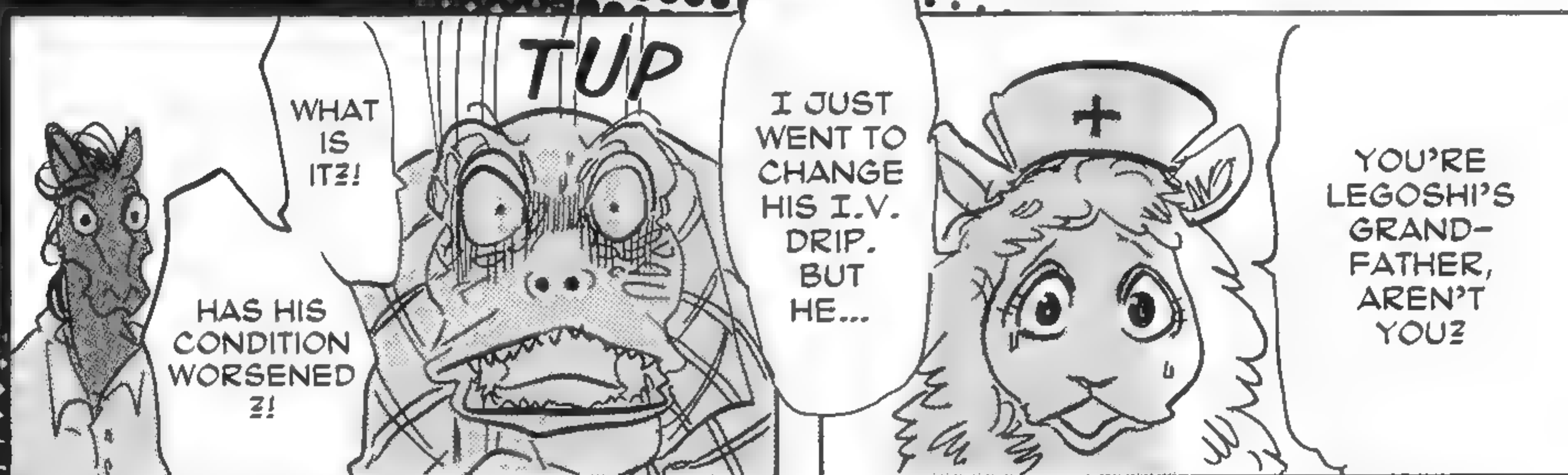
I NEVER
IMAGINED HE'D
LET MELON GO.
I SHOULD HAVE
BEEN MORE
CAREFUL.

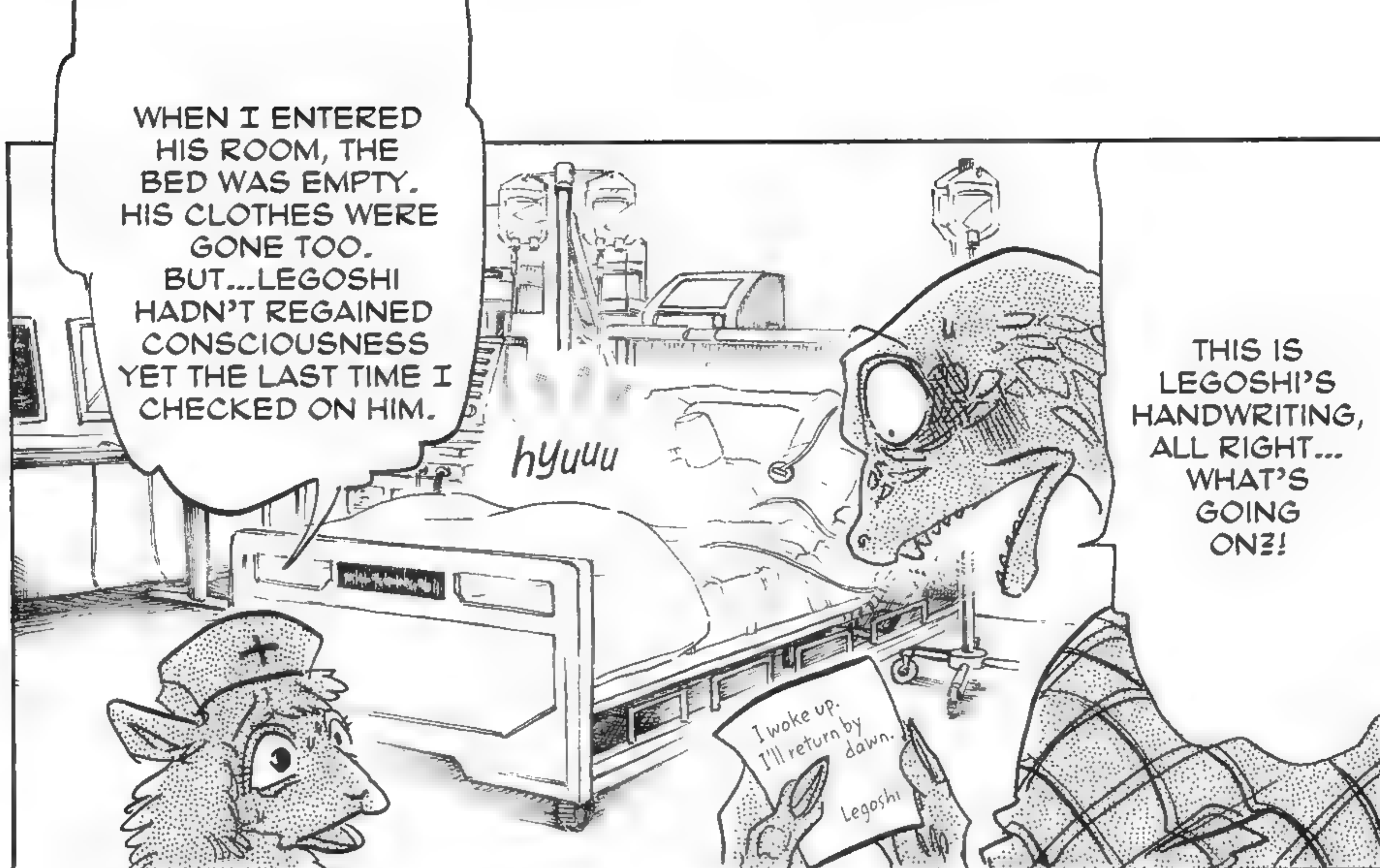
!!



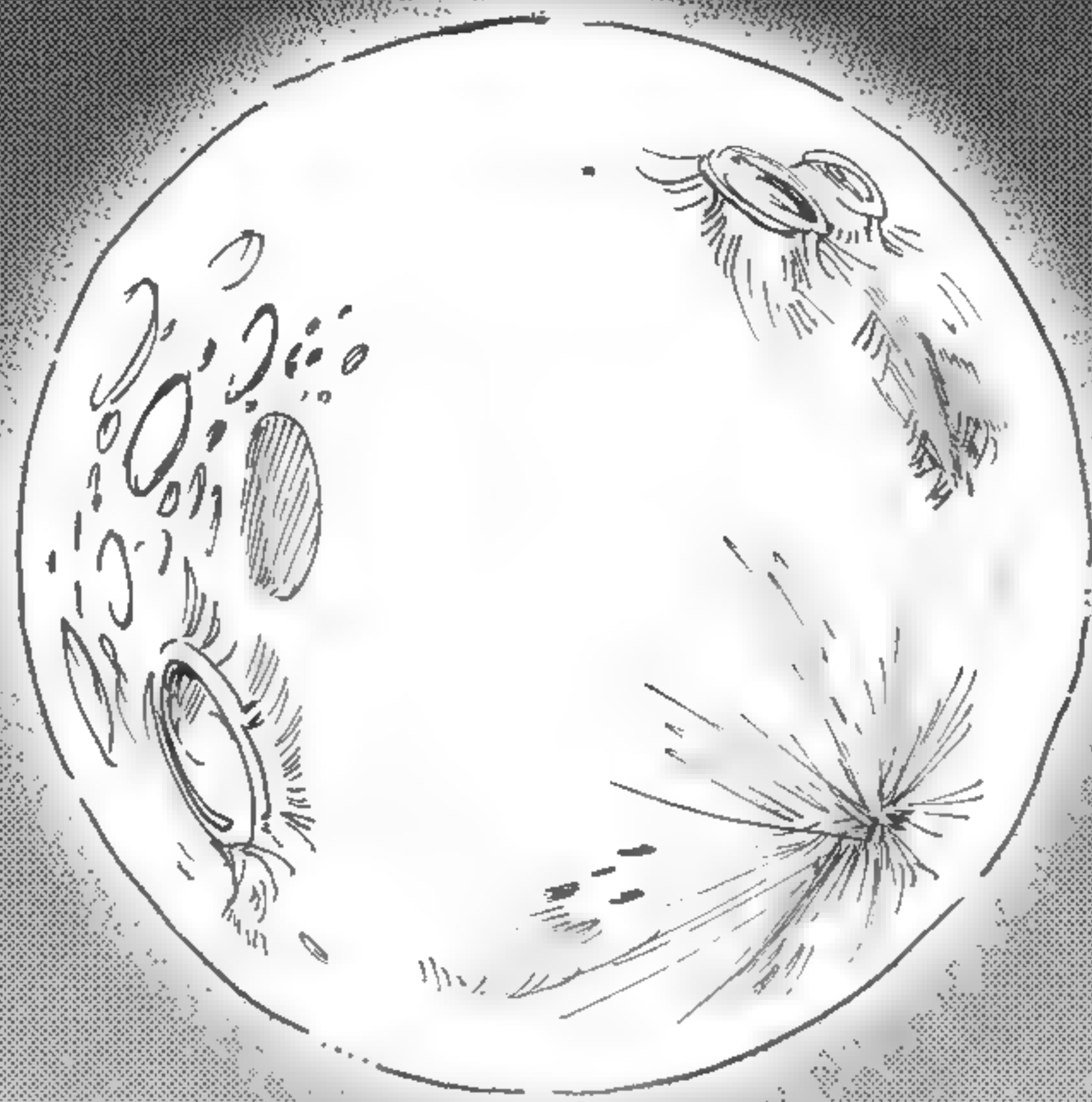
REGARD-
LESS OF
WHETHER
HE INHER-
ITED MY
STRENGTH
...

...I
DON'T
WANT HIM
TO WASTE
HIS LIFE
FIGHTING!





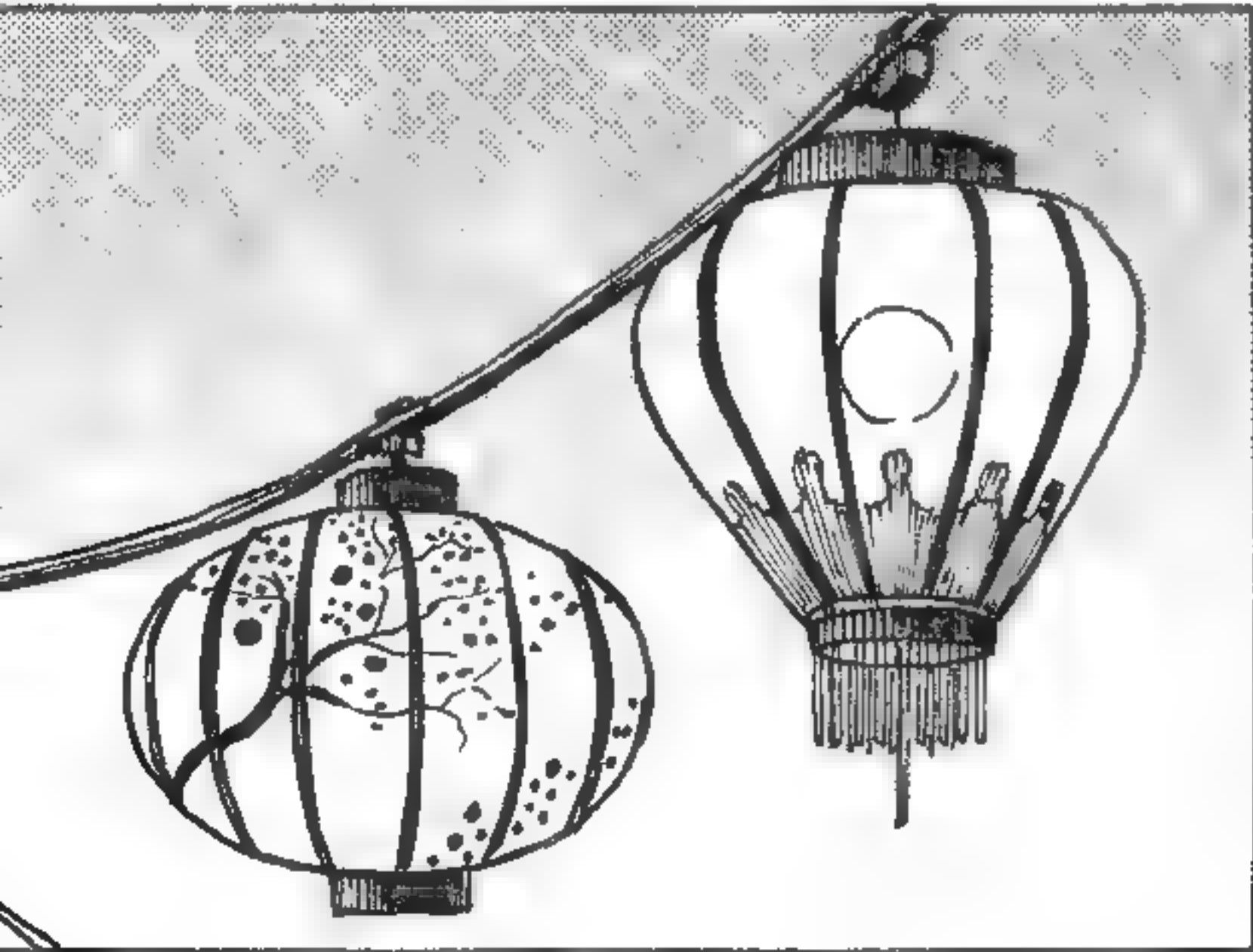
It's
the day
when the
gravi-
tational force
of the
moon is
strongest.



The
power
of the
moon
is at
its
peak
on the
night
of a
full
moon.



Every-
one
gathers
...



...so
both
adults
and
chil-
dren
go
out-
side to
bathe
in the
moon-
light.

Beasts
are
able to
absorb
more
nutrients
and
liquids
due to
this
phenom-
enon...

At the Deep Night market, stalls specialize in highly nutritional and performance-enhancing products.



...at an event called "Deep Night" held only on full moons.



And that's why Lego-shi...



I'M WOBBLY BECAUSE I'VE BEEN LYING IN BED FOR SO LONG. I NEED SOLID FOOD.

...went to a Deep Night event.



I ALMOST LOST MY LIFE.

AND I HAVE A SCAR FROM A BULLET WOUND NOW.

DEEP NIGHT IS A TIME FOR BEASTS TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR HEALTH. I KEEP GETTING HURT.



WAS IT MY
MOTHER
WHO GAVE
ME THE
POWER TO
COME OUT
OF IT?

IS IT BECAUSE
I INHERITED
GRANDPA'S STRENGTH
AND IMMUNITY
TO POISONS?

OR DID
THE FULL
MOON
AWAKEN
ME?

TODAY IS
JUNE 17...
THAT
MEANS I'VE
BEEN IN A
COMA FOR
A WEEK!

DEEP NIGHT

4/19

7/17

5/19

8/15

6/17

Today

MILK STAND

HI.
ONE
BOTTLE
OF
WHOLE
MILK,
PLEASE.

I
HAVEN'T
EATEN IN
SO LONG.
MILK WILL
SOOTHE MY
STOMACH.

Guarana

¥150



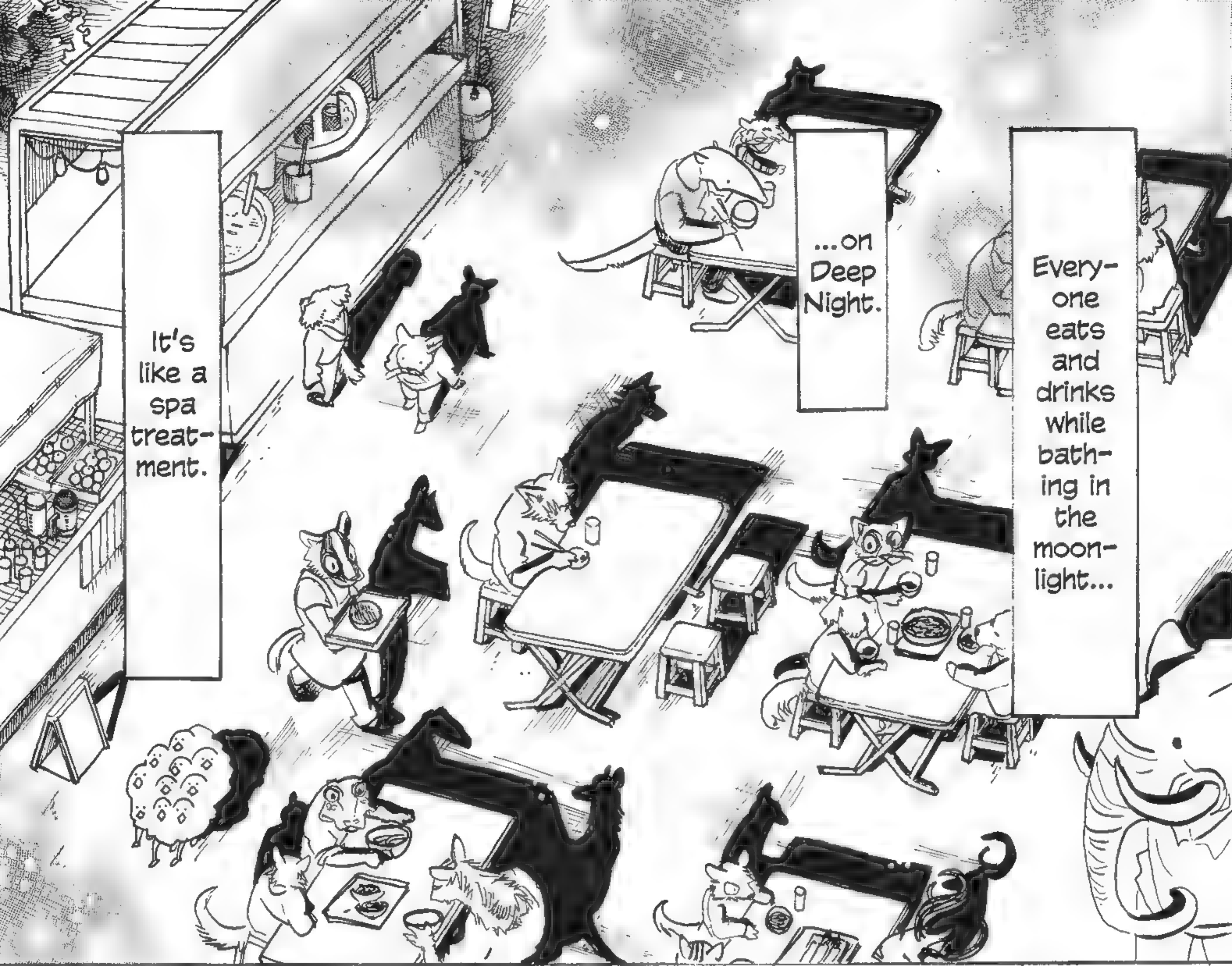
The stalls sell drinks like sweet fermented rice and sake eggnog. Beasts of all species can ingest these liquids.



Beasts also enjoy the moonlight at the market, so stalls sell boiled moon-viewing dumplings with vegetables kneaded into the dough.



And there are sweet, deep-fried bananas high in calories.



It's like a spa treatment.

...on Deep Night.

Everyone eats and drinks while bathing in the moonlight...



THANK YOU.

HERE'S YOUR UDON NOODLE STEW! CANIDAE CUSTOMERS GET A COMPLIMENTARY OAT TOPPING!

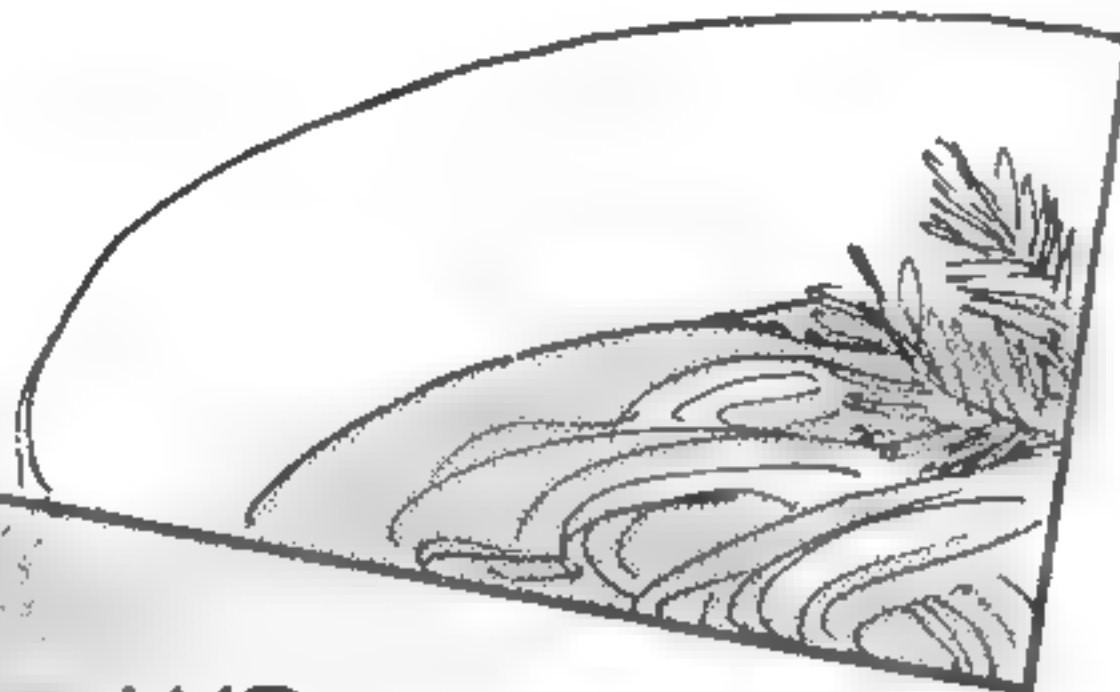
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE A GROWN-UP WAS KIND TO ME...

Time to eat!

I'VE
COME
BACK TO
LIFE!

IT MAKES
ME FEEL
ALIVE...

I CAN LIVE
ON TO
CANCEL MY
REGRETS!



THIS
TASTES
SO
GOOD!

...AND
COMING TO
VISIT AND
TALK TO ME
AGAIN.

FOR
GIVING
BIRTH TO
ME...

DID I
REMEM-
BER TO
THANK
MOM?



YOU'LL GROW
UP TO BE
STRONGER AND
GENTLER THAN
ANY WOLF WITH
A PUREBLOOD
LINEAGE.







...FROM
YOUR
NIGHT
STROLL.
AND THE
WORLD OF
THE DEAD.

YOU'VE
RETURNED...



I DON'T
KNOW HOW
I CAN MAKE
UP FOR
LETTING
MELON
GO...

I'M
SORRY
FOR
WHAT
I DID—
FOR
ALL THE
TROUBLE
I'VE
CAUSED.





BUT I
SPENT
ALL THE
MONEY
YOU PAID
ME...

...SO YOU
CAN'T
CANCEL MY
CONTRACT!

I'M S-SORRY.
SO MY CONTRACT
IS STILL VALID
THEN, RIGHT?

DID
YOU BUY
PROP-
ERTY OR
SOME-
THING?

WHAT
?!

ACTUALLY,
I ONLY
SPENT
ABOUT 700
YEN.



**Chapter 136:
A Shredded Drinking Straw Is Our EKG**



Boiled
moon-viewing
dumplings



Deep-fried
bananas



Sprinkled
with
cinnamon
sugar

Sweet
fermented-
rice drink





About 70 percent of the usual length at this point

...MY HORNS ARE GROWING SLOWER THAN USUAL.

I HAVE SO MUCH ON MY MIND LATELY THAT...

I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE BLACK MARKET ANYMORE. WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

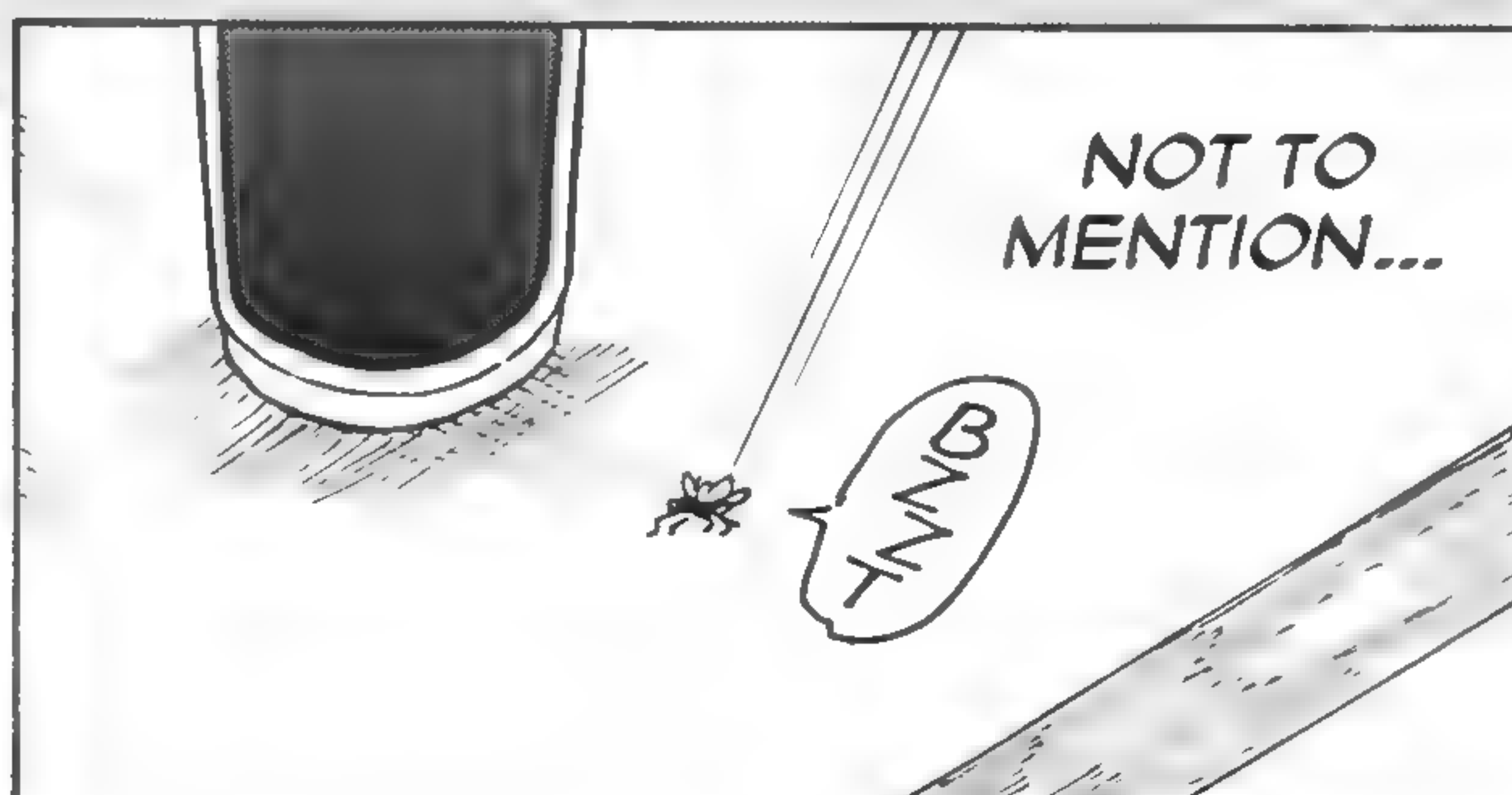
SHOULD I ASK LEGOSHI FOR ADVICE?



Boss, come back!



HOW CAN I HELP THE SHISHIGUMI LIONS?



NOT TO MENTION...

...WHAT
SHOULD
I DO
ABOUT
THIS
FEMALE
WOLF?

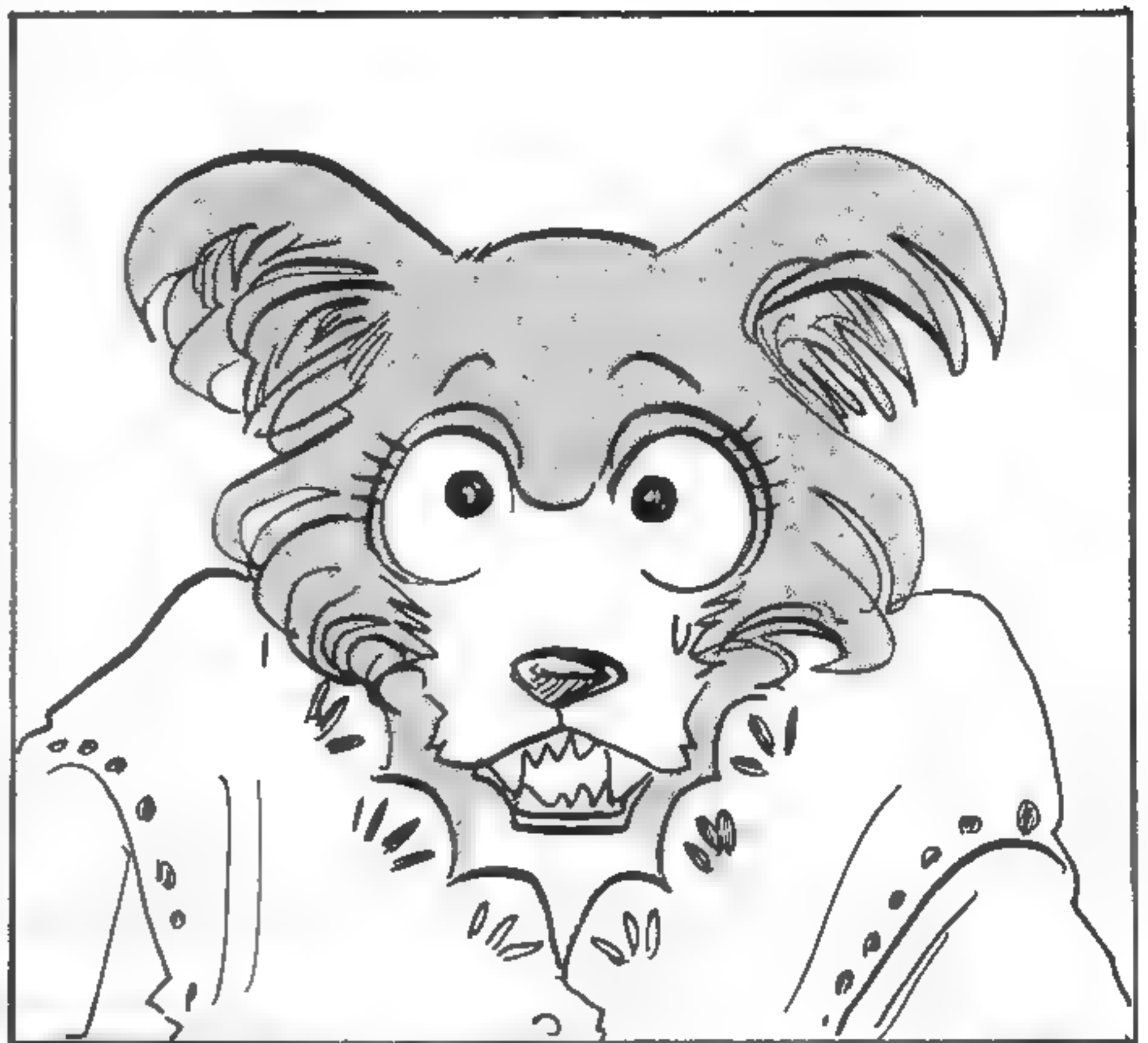
B
A
M

EEK!





YOU
CERTAINLY
HAVE
EXCEL-
LENT
KINETIC
VISION.



YOU DON'T
NEED TO BE
ASHAMED
OF YOUR
HUNTER'S
INSTINCTS
JUST
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
FEMALE.

YOU'RE
SCARED
OF BUGS?
YOU
JUST
SQUASHED
ONE WITH
YOUR
BARE
PAW!

I'M
SCARED
OF
BUGS!

JUNO
AND
I...

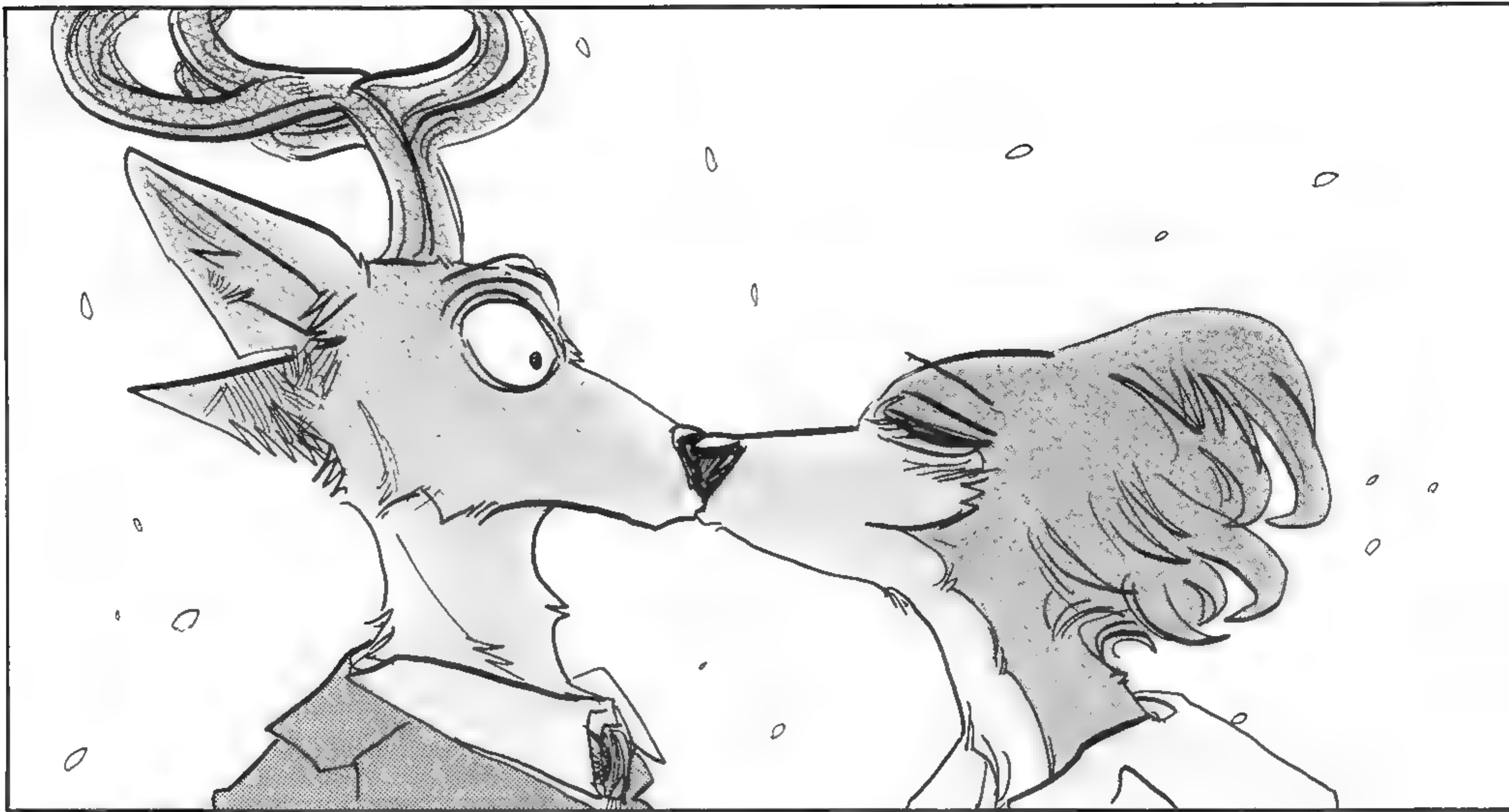


EVER
SINCE
GRADUA-
TION...

...HAVE
BEEN
GETTING
TO-
GETHER
ONCE
OR
TWICE A
MONTH
TO CHAT
OVER
TEA...

It's
not
that.

Argh!
No!





TO WANT
TO TALK
WITH AN
OLDER
MALE
AND TO
SOCIALIZE
WITH AN
HERBI-
VORE.

I CAN
FULFILL
BOTH WISHES
AT ONCE.
EFFICIENT,
ISN'T IT?



YOU'RE
SUCH A
JERK.

GRR...



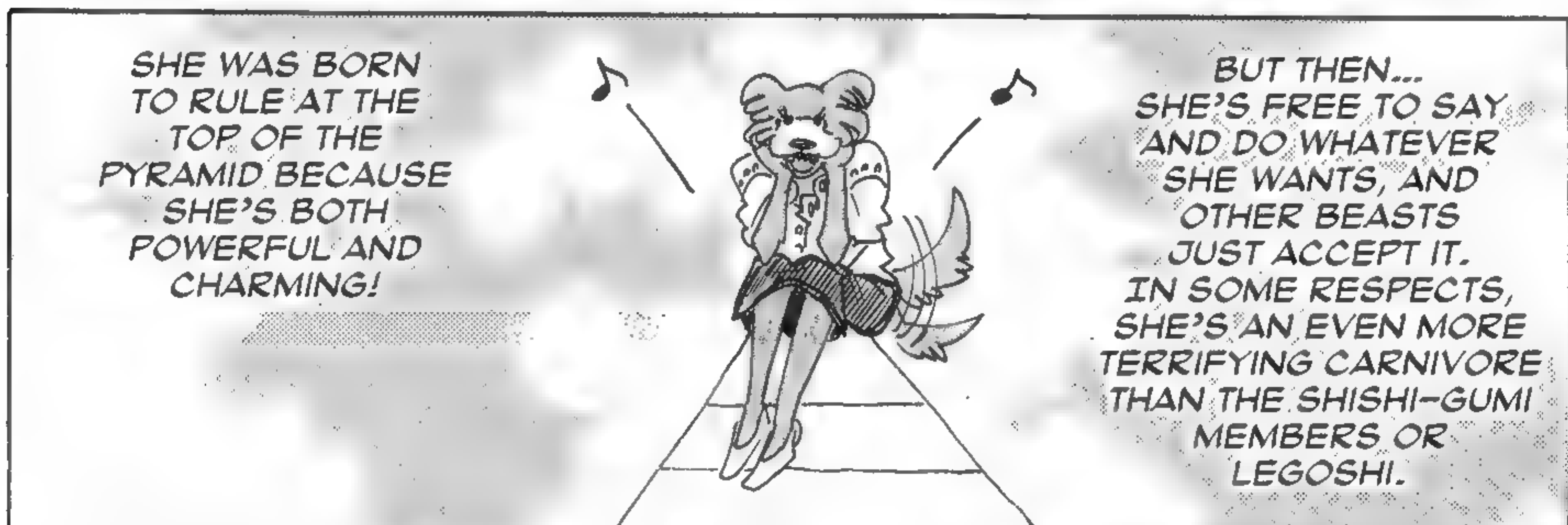
HOW CAN
YOU SAY THAT?
WHY DO YOU
ALWAYS HAVE
TO ACT SO
SUPERIOR?!

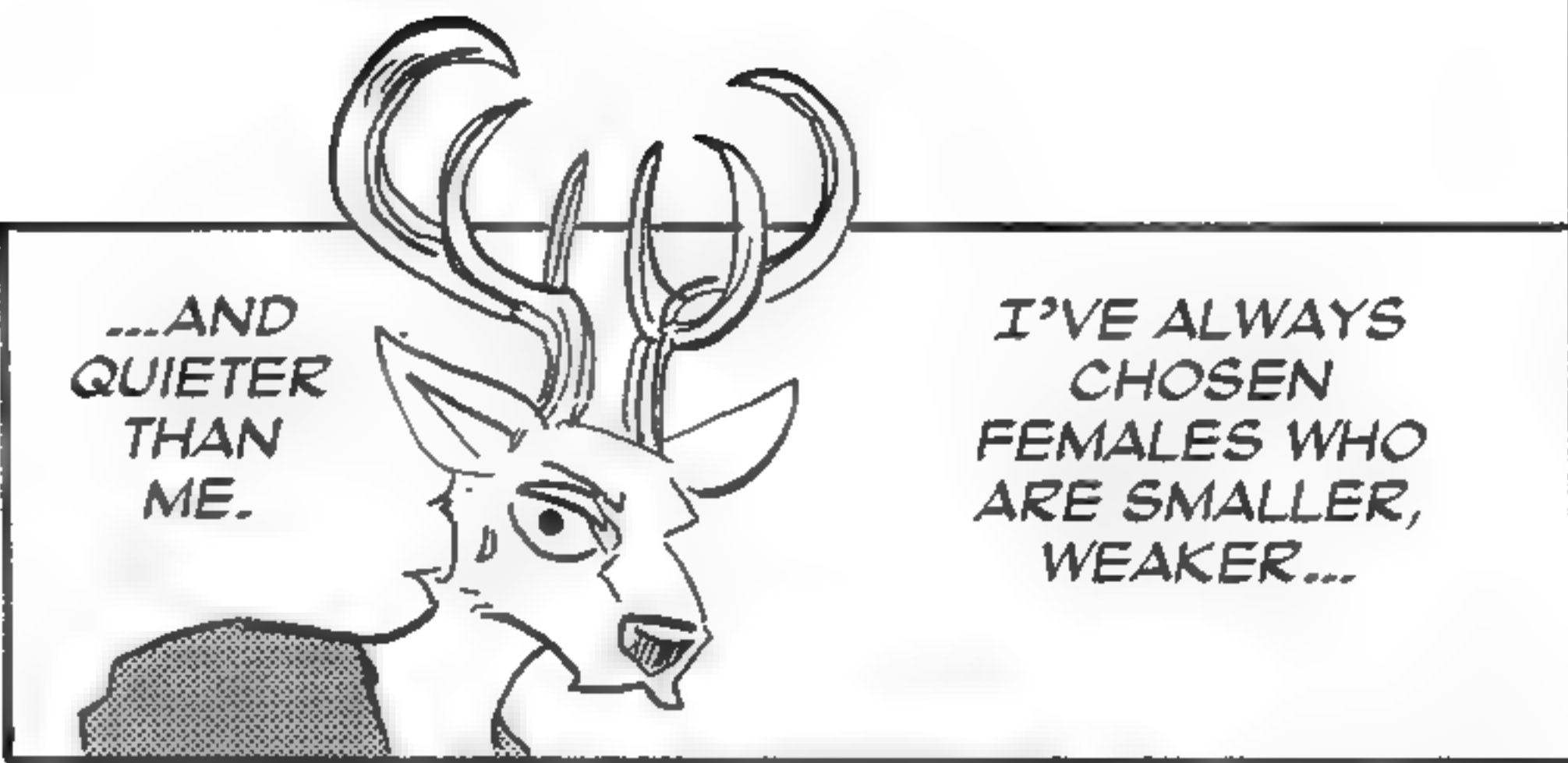
WELL,
YOU'RE
JUST TURNING
17 THIS YEAR.
IT'S NATURAL
FOR YOU TO
BE AWED BY
ME.



SO WHY
HAVE I
FALLEN SO
HARD FOR
YOU?!

YOU'RE MEAN.
YOU LOVE TO
ARGUE.
YOU'RE
SCRAWNY...
THE MORE I
THINK ABOUT IT,
THE MORE
POSITIVE
I AM THAT
YOU'RE NOT
MY TYPE.





...AND
QUIETER
THAN
ME.

I'VE ALWAYS
CHOSEN
FEMALES WHO
ARE SMALLER,
WEAKER...



HER
CANIDAE
NATURE
MAKES
HER SO
OUTGOING

POP NOSE

THE
TRUTH IS,
I FIND
HER RE-
FRESHING
AND
INTRIGUING
...



THE
FLEETING
EXPRES-
SIONS
THAT PLAY
ACROSS
HER
FACE...



WHAT?
YOU'RE
LEAVING
ALREADY
?!

ALL
RIGHT,
TIME TO
GO.

Ooo's

I COULD
WATCH HER
FOREVER...



Thank you, come again! You can just leave your cups on your table!

COME ON. HURRY UP.



UM... YEAH.

THE STAFF'S CLEARING THE TABLE FOR US! ISN'T THAT NICE?



BUS STOP

OF THE W



I'VE GOT
TO TELL
HER THE
TRUTH—
PUT SOME
DISTANCE
BETWEEN
US!

LOUIS,
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
PLANS
AFTER
THIS?



YOUR...
WHAT?!

I'M
MEETING
MY
FIANCÉE
TONIGHT.
FOR
DINNER.



HER
FATHER
IS THE
CEO OF
A LARGE
CORPO-
RATION.
SHE'S
A RED
DEER,
LIKE ME.

I'M THE HEIR
TO THE HORNS
CONGLOMER-
ATE. I'VE BEEN
ENGAGED
SINCE I WAS
A LITTLE
FAWN.

HAVEN'T
I MEN-
TIONED
HER?



...WHEN I
MEET YOU.

SO NOW
YOU KNOW
I HAVE NO
ULTERIOR
MOTIVES...



I CAN'T
RESIST THE
URGE TO
CHASE YOU
IF YOU RUN
AWAY FROM
ME.

YOU
TOLD ME
NOT TO BE
ASHAMED
OF MY
HUNTING
INSTINCTS
BECAUSE
I'M
FEMALE.

LOUIS...

YOU WERE
STARING
AT THE
DRINKING
STRAW I
CHEWED ON,
WEREN'T
YOU?

WERE YOU
REMEMBERING...
OUR KISS?

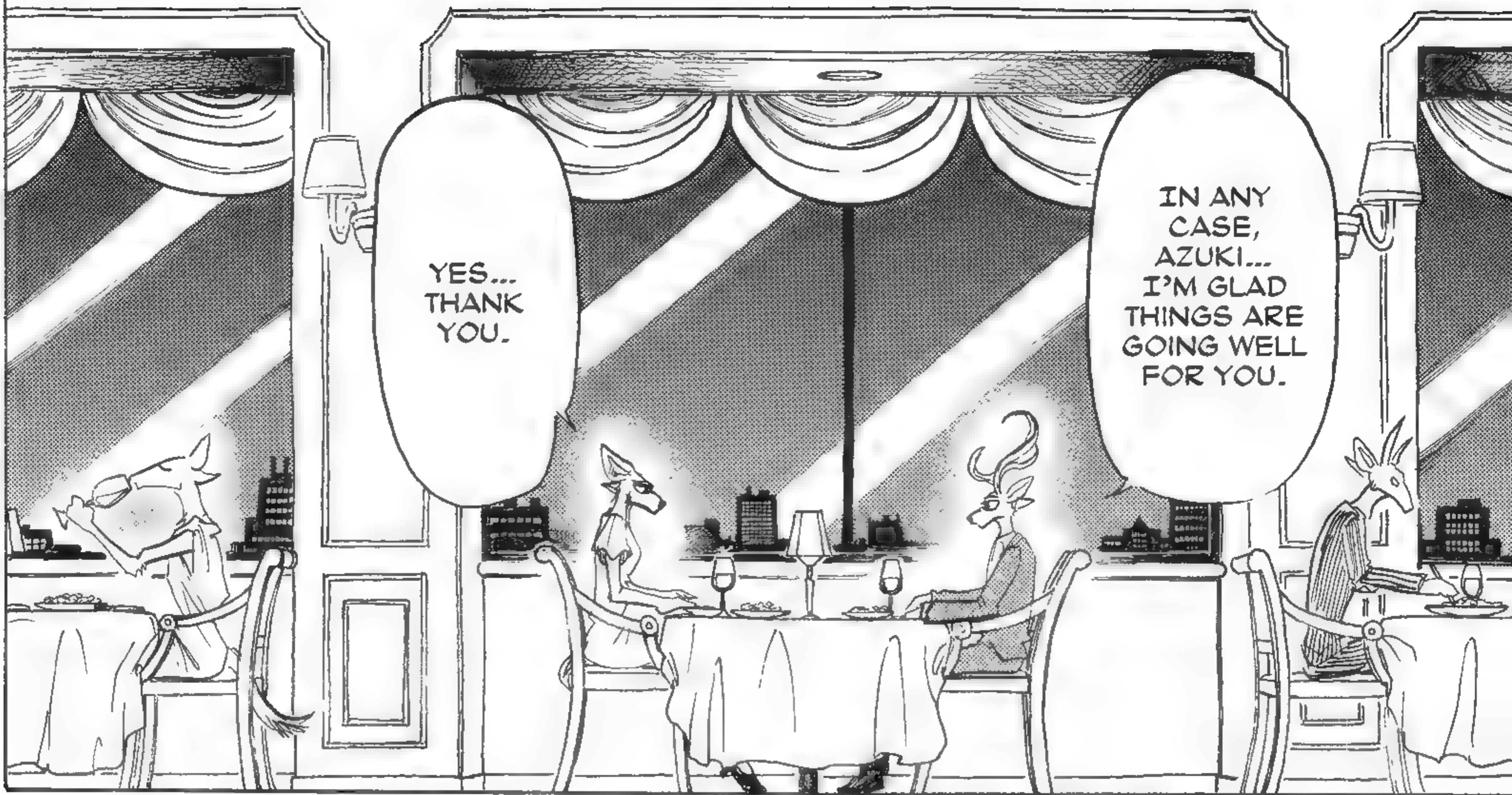


DON'T
YOU WANT
ME...
TO DO
THAT TO
YOU?

TO...







YES...
THANK
YOU.

IN ANY
CASE,
AZUKI...
I'M GLAD
THINGS ARE
GOING WELL
FOR YOU.



SIX
MONTHS
AGO?
NO, A
YEAR?



WHEN DID
WE LAST
SEE EACH
OTHER?



I WAS
INVOLVED
IN AN
ACCI-
DENT...
I WAS
LUCKY TO
SURVIVE.

YES...
I DID.

FATHER
TOLD ME YOU
LOST YOUR
RIGHT LEG.

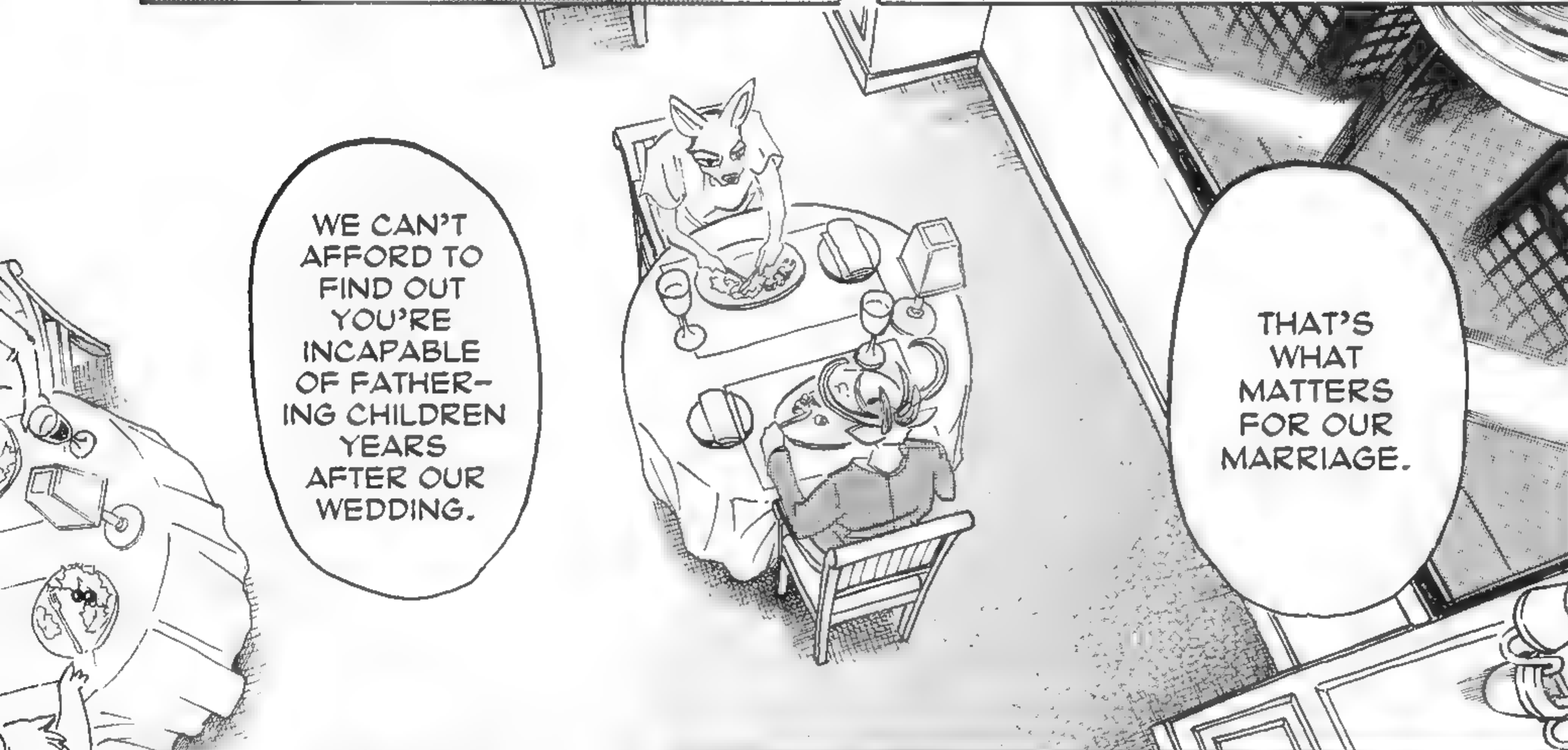
YES.



WHAT
?!



CAN
YOU STILL
FUNCTION
SEXUALLY
?



WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO
FIND OUT
YOU'RE
INCAPABLE
OF FATHER-
ING CHILDREN
YEARS
AFTER OUR
WEDDING.

THAT'S
WHAT
MATTERS
FOR OUR
MARRIAGE.



I'M NOT
GOING TO
DIGNIFY THAT
QUESTION WITH
AN ANSWER.
HORNS
CONGLOMER-
ATE ISN'T THAT
DESPERATE.













WHAT
?!

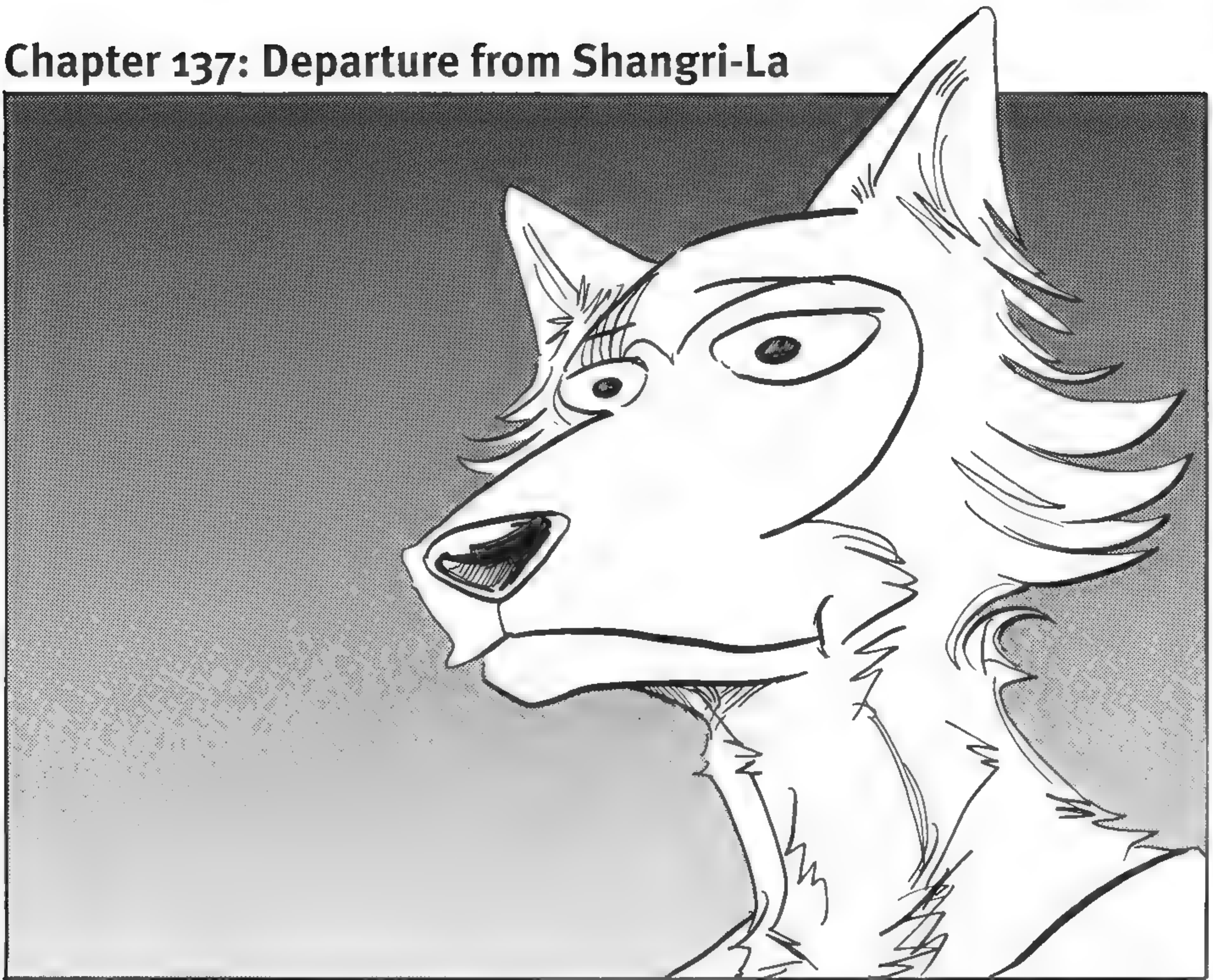
AND YOU
HAVE A
LOT OF
EXPERIENCE
WITH INTER-
SPECIES
LOVE!



I NEED
ROMANTIC
ADVICE
FROM
YOU!

Beast
Apartments

Chapter 137: Departure from Shangri-La





HE
FROZE
UP...

UH-
OH.

LEGO-
SHIZ



JOLT

I'M
SORRY.
YOUR
LOVE
STORY
IS SO
INTENSE.
MY
BRAIN...

HA
HA...

THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT.
YOUR
BRAIN
GLITCHED.

Sigh...



...I'VE
FALLEN SO
HEAD OVER
HEELS FOR
LOUIS.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE...



LEGOSHI...
HAVE YOU
NOTICED
WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO ME?



WHAT'S
THAT?



SIGH.
TELLING
YOU ABOUT
IT JUST
MAKES ME
OBSESS
ABOUT
HIM EVEN
MORE.

AND
I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
KISSED HIM
THE SECOND
YOU REALIZED
HOW YOU
FELT.

You
accomplished
more in *one day*
than I...still
haven't been
able to do...



I'VE BEEN
GAINING
WEIGHT...

...LITTLE
BY LITTLE,
SINCE THE
DAY I
REALIZED
I'M IN
LOVE WITH
LOUIS.



THE MORE
I THINK
ABOUT HIM,
THE
HUNGRIER
I GET...

YOUR
HEART IS
SUPPOSED
TO POUND
WHEN YOU
FALL IN LOVE,
BUT INSTEAD
MY STOMACH
RUMBLES.

ISN'T
THAT...
DISTURB-
ING?

SO...
YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE I CAN
ASK FOR
ADVICE.

MY
APPETITE
AND MY
ROMANTIC
DESIRES ARE
MIXED UP
TOGETHER.

MAYBE
WHAT I
REALLY
WANT TO DO
IS DEVOUR
LOUIS.



THE TRUTH IS,
JUNO...
I'VE BEEN
AGONIZING OVER
THE SAME
ISSUE.

...A **SECRET
TECHNIQUE**
YOU CAN USE
WHEN YOU
FALL IN LOVE
WITH AN
HERBIVORE.

BUT
THERE
IS...



AND
THAT
SECRET
TECH-
NIQUE
IS...

A...
SECRET
TECH-
NIQUE?!

YES,
MASTER
?!

THAT'S
RIGHT!



"SO
SHOULDN'T
I STOP
LIKING
HER?"

I THINK
TO MYSELF,
"I COULD
END UP
DEVOURING
HARU ONE
DAY."

THEN I GET
ANXIOUS AND
DEPRESSED.



THE
SECRET
TECH-
NIQUE
IS...
WHAT?!





INTER-SPECIES LOVE IS HARD.



THAT SOUNDS HARD.

...WITHOUT REMEMBERING MELON AND MY MOM. AND THEN MY TAIL DROOPS.

I'M NOT DOING TOO WELL AT THE MOMENT MY-SELF...

I CAN'T THINK ABOUT HARU...



RRRRRMBL

THE CHALLENGES OF INTER-SPECIES LOVE ARE ENDLESS...



Right,
right
...

I JUST
NEED
SOME-
THING
TO EAT!
ORDINARY
FOOD!

I...

WERE
YOU JUST
THINKING
ABOUT
LOUIS?

LET'S GO OUT
TO EAT THEN...
WE'LL NEED TO
WALK TO THE MAIN
STREET. THERE
AREN'T MANY
RESTAURANTS
NEARBY.

Beast
Apartments

WHEN
I WAS
WALK-
ING WITH
HARU...

IT'S
STRANGE,
BUT...

...IT
WASN'T
LIKE THIS
AT ALL!

WHEN
I WAS
WALKING
WITH
LOUIS...

EVERYONE
MAKES WAY
FOR US.

A SAME-
SPECIES
COUPLE
OUT
WALKING
TOGETH-
ER...





...THE
STATE
GIVES
THEM A
CASH
GIFT AS A
WEDDING
PRESENT.

WHEN TWO
BEASTS
OF THE
SAME
SPECIES
GET
MARRIED...



THE
STATE
GIVES
THEM ITS
BLESSING
SO THAT
ENDEMIC
SPECIES
DON'T GO
EXTINCT.

SO A
PURE-
BRED
FAMILY
HAS
FINAN-
CIAL
SECUR-
ITY.

AND IF
THEY
HAVE
PURE-
BLOOD
CHILD-
REN,
THEY
GET
CHILD-
CARE
SUBSI-
DIES.



I COULD GET
EVERYTHING I
WANT IN LIFE
THROUGH A
PUREBLOOD
MARRIAGE.

SAME-
SPECIES
COUPLES
ARE
RECOG-
NIZED BY
SOCIETY.
OTHER
BEASTS
PRAISE AND
LOOK UP TO
THEM.
THEY LEAD
COMFORT-
ABLE LIVES.

(Growl-
ing with
worry)

GRWL!

GRWL!

BUT IF
SHE AND
I END UP
TOGETHER...

HARU
GREW
UP IN A
NICE, BIG
HOUSE.

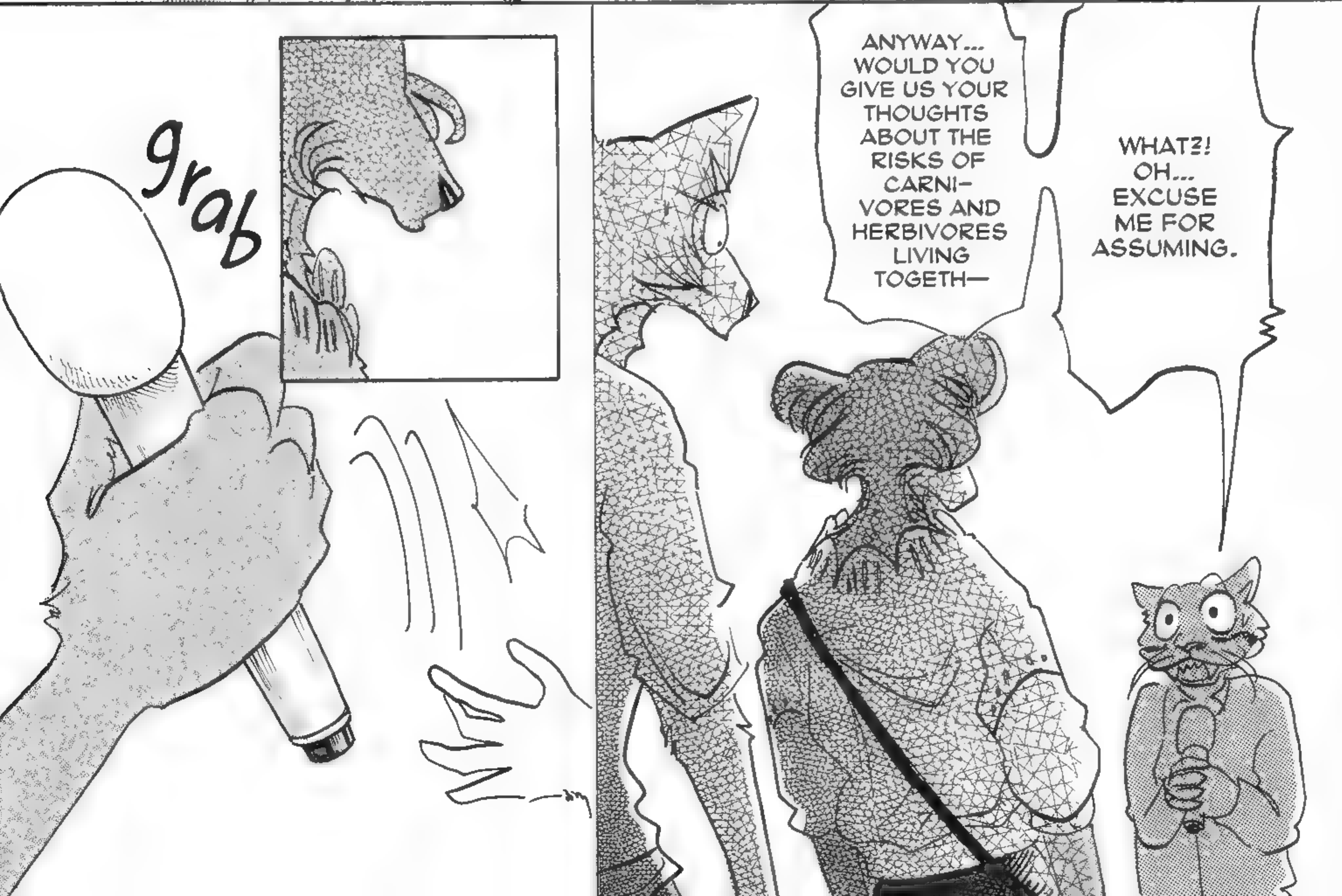
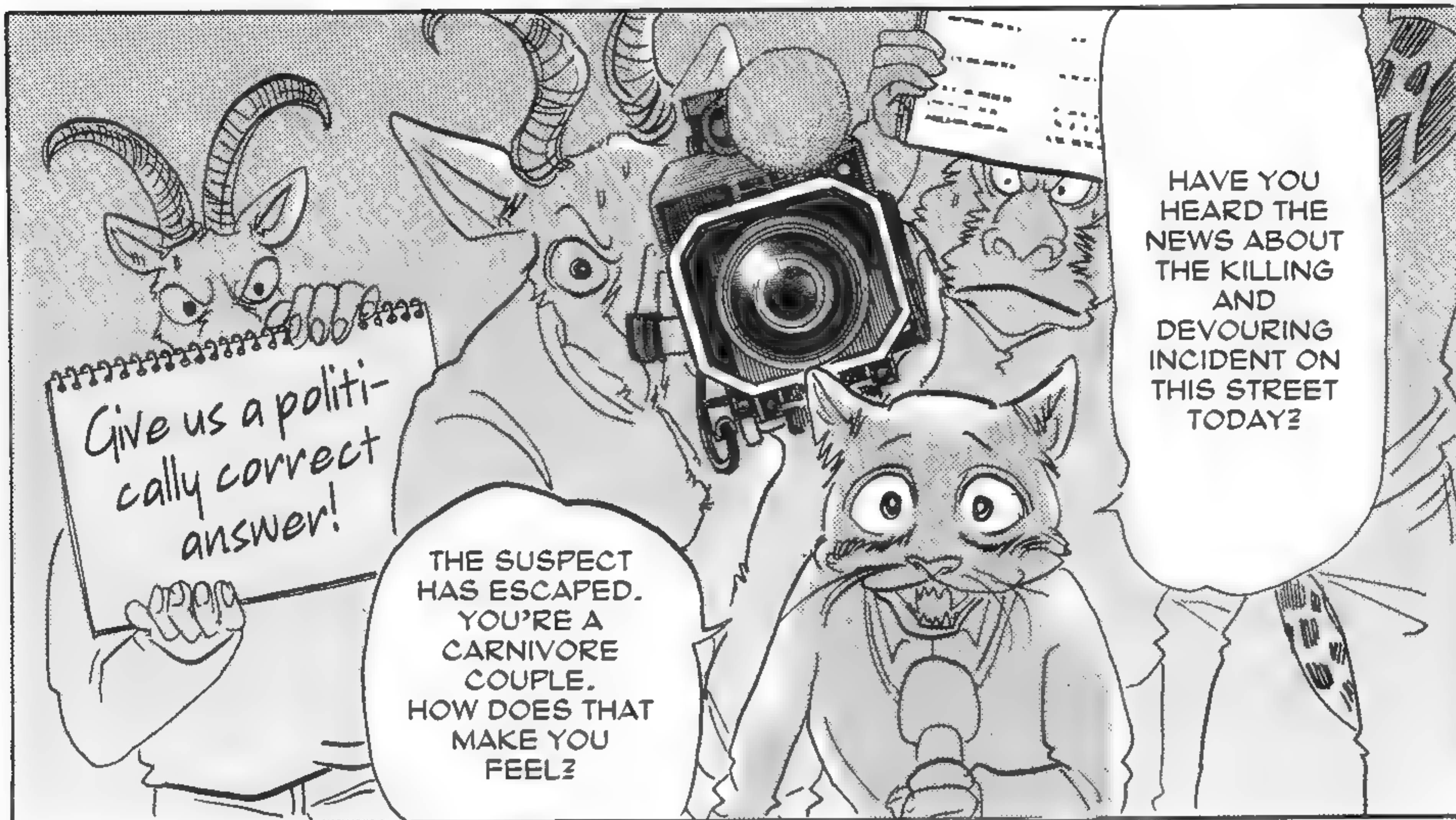
GLOO—OOM

But don't
they look
like they
just
had a
fight?

What
a cool-
looking
wolf
couple.
I'm
jealous.

They're
a well-
matched
couple!







**HE'LL
RE-
JECT
ME IF
I'M
AFRAID
TO
FACE
THOSE
RISKS!**

**I'M
TOTALLY
IN LOVE
WITH A
MALE
DEER!**



HOW
DARE THEY?!
I WON'T LET
THEM DECIDE
WHAT'S RIGHT
OR WRONG
AND CONTROL
MY LIFE!

COME
ON.
LET'S
GO,
JUNO
...

AND
TH-THAT'S
OUR REPORT!
NOW BACK
TO THE
STUDIO!

STOP!
STOP
THE
CAM-
ERA!

Give
u
cally
a

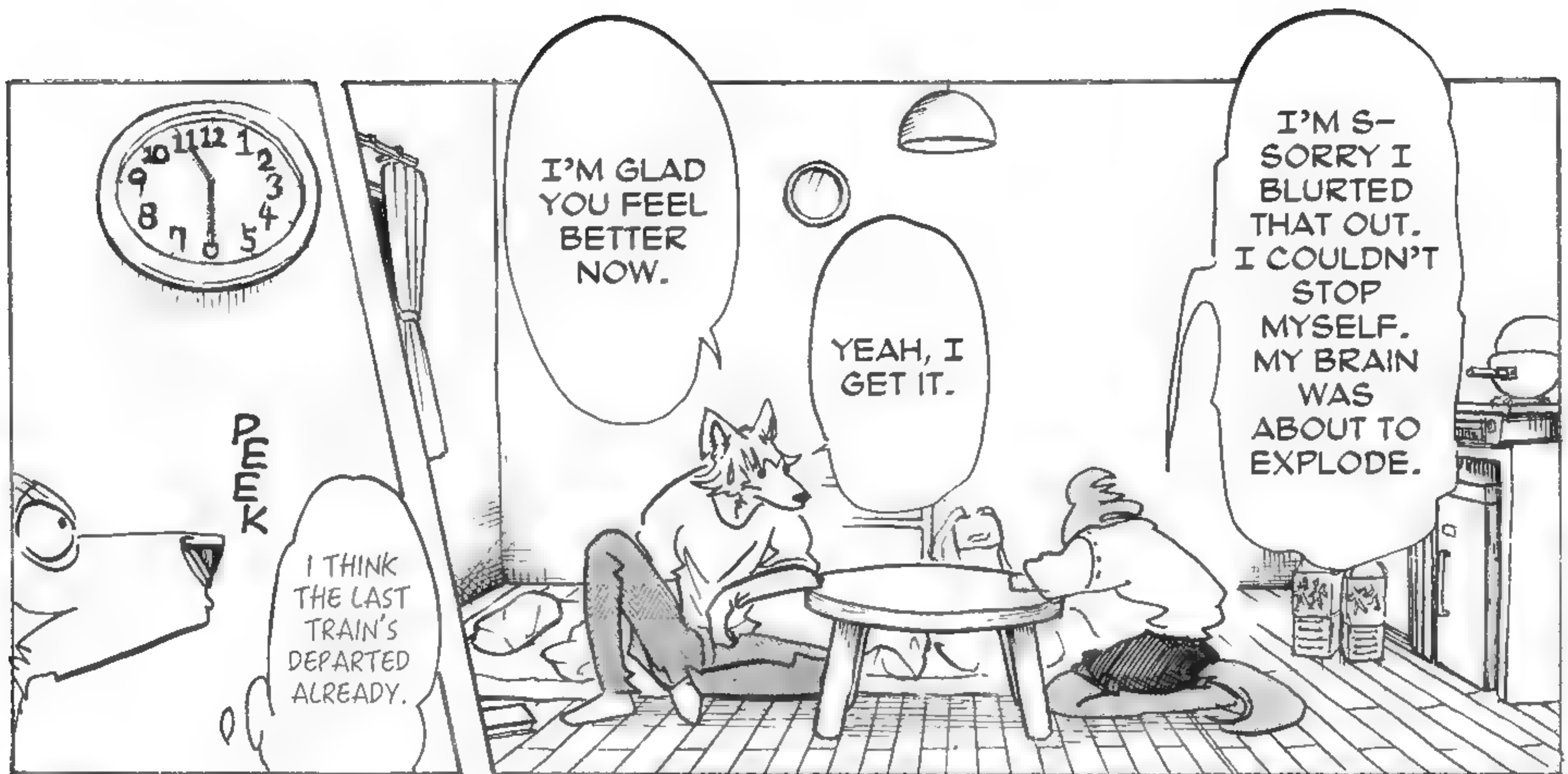


JUNO...
WAS THAT
PUDDING
SPIKED
OR
SOME-
THING?!

I
DECIDE
HOW I
WANT TO
LIVE!



Beast
Apartments





BUT I
CAN'T SAY
THAT WITH
A NAIVE
SMILE LIKE
I USED TO.

I
LOVE
...

...ALL
BEASTS
—
CARNI-
VORE
AND
HERBI-
VORE.



THAT'S
THE
BEST
I CAN
DO.

I
CAN'T
HELP
FROWN-
ING
WHEN
I SAY
"I LOVE
ALL
BEASTS"
NOW.



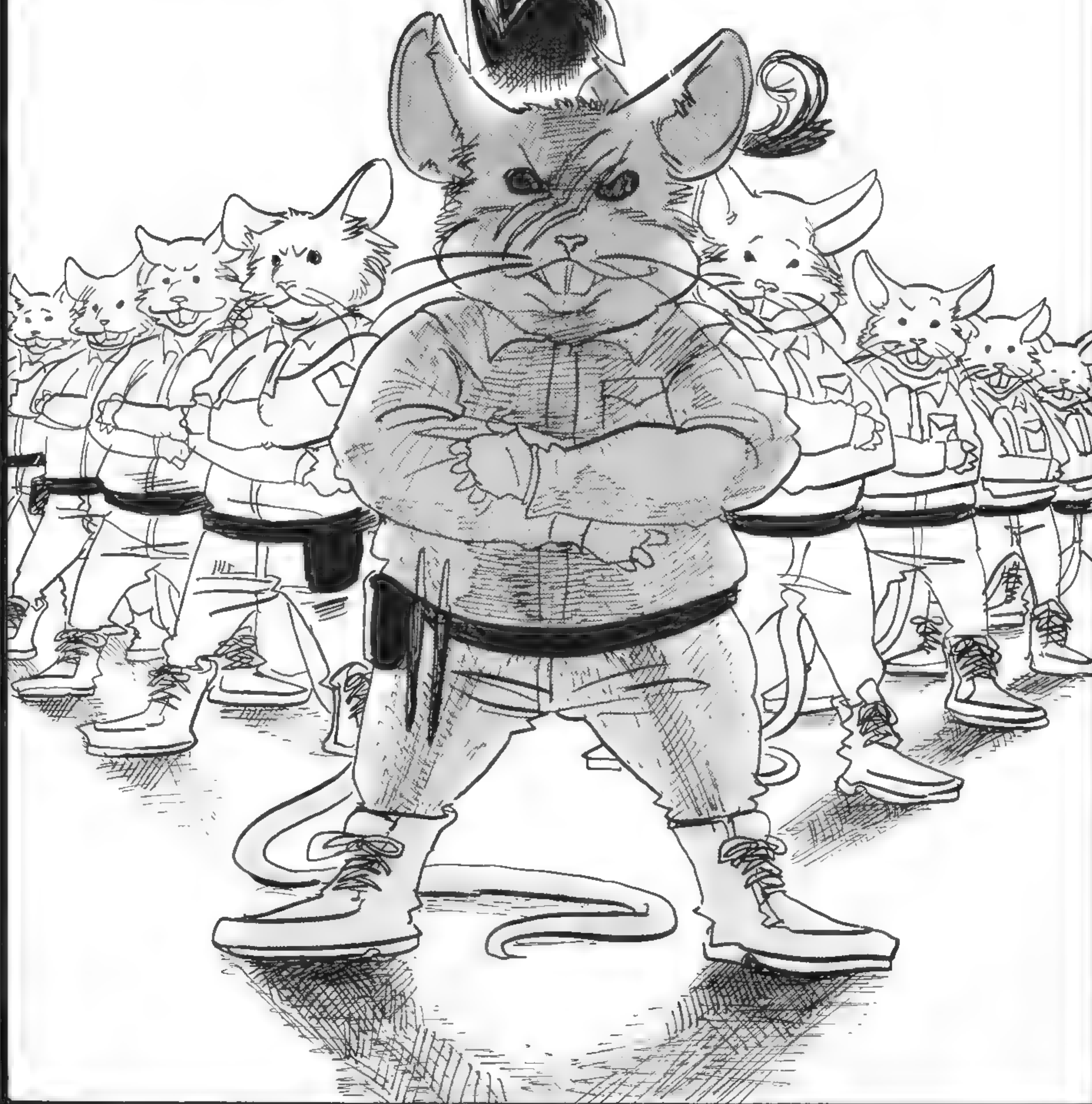
NO
THANKS.

SAG-
WAN...
HOW
ABOUT I
GIVE YOU
A SET OF
PAJAMAS
AS A
GIFT?

Sag-
wan's
Room

BUT
THAT'S
OKAY...
FOR
NOW.

500 Cornered Rats Corps





THAT
BANK
HAS NO
SECURITY!
BWA
HA HA!

HURRY!

HEH
HEH
HEH...
WHAT A
HAUL!
HOW
MUCH
IS THIS
WORTH
?!

WHAT THE
HELL?!
YOU'RE A
BEAR CAT!
WHY ARE
YOU
SQUEAKING
LIKE A
MOUSE?

SQUEAK
...

SQUEAK
...

SQUEAK
...

SQUEAK
...



W-WHAT
DO YOU
WANT...
A CUT
OF THE
LOOT?

WHOA!

A-ARE
YOU A
GRIZZLY
BEAR?

YOU
FOOL



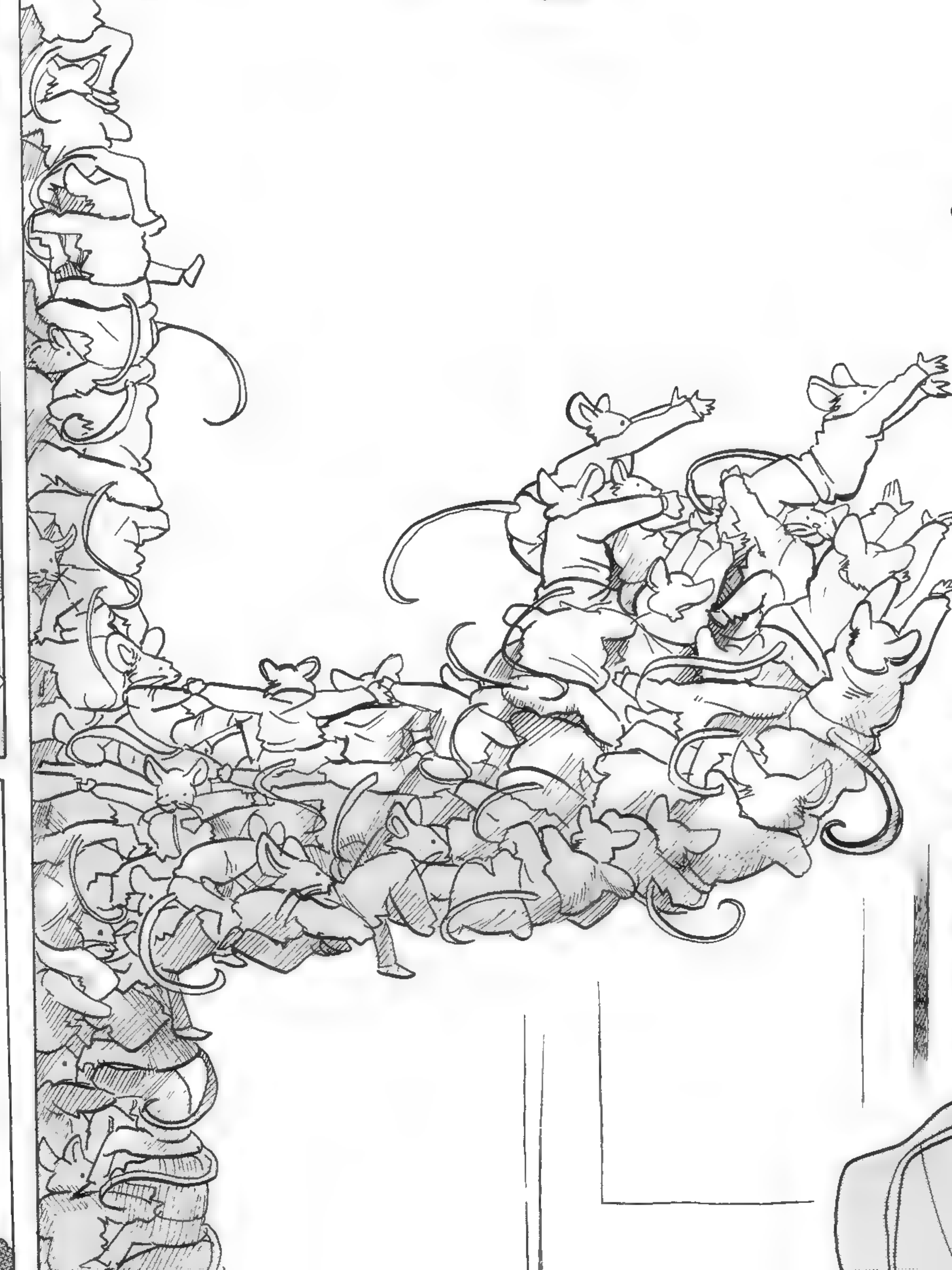
AGH!



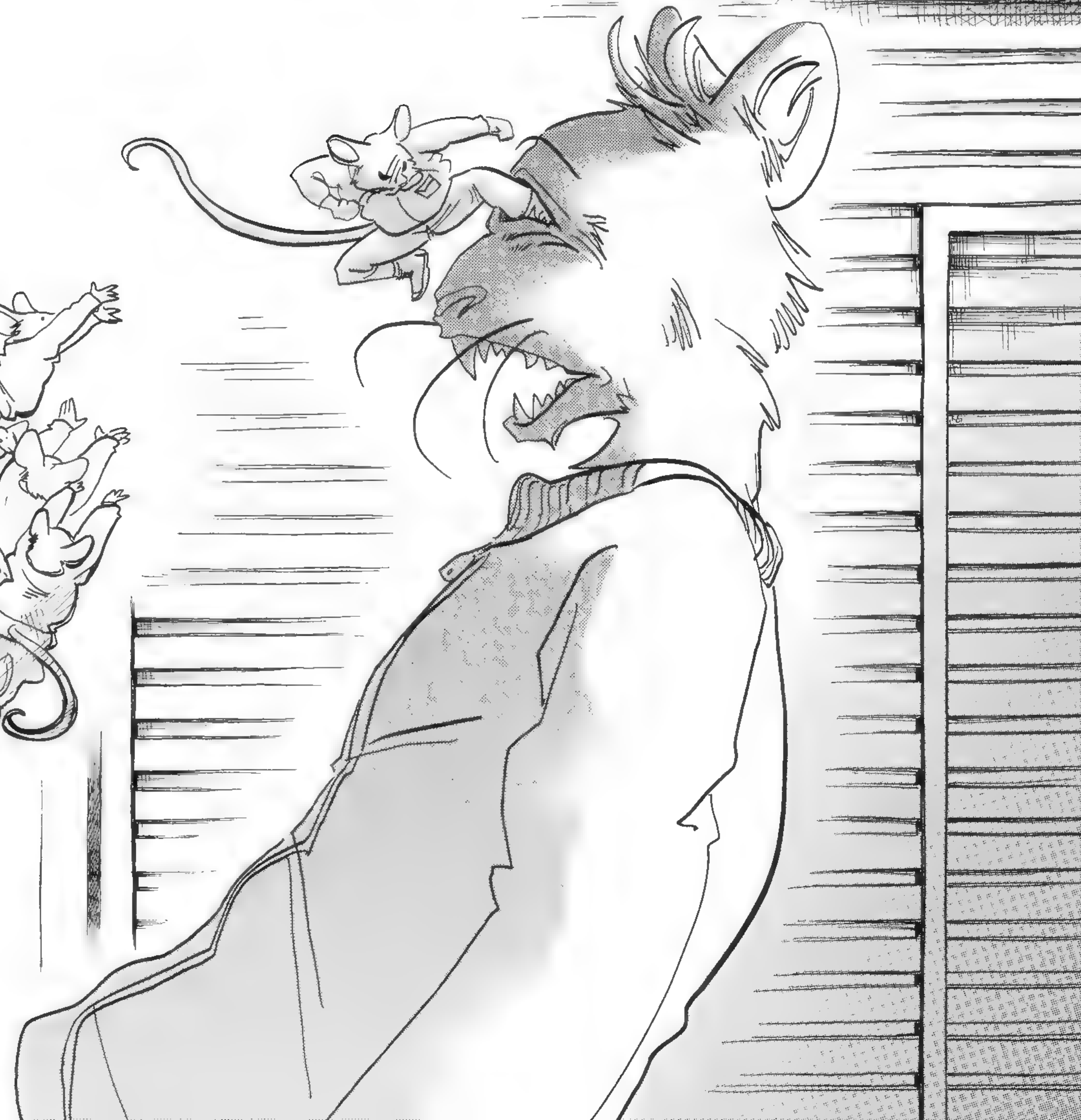
ARGH!

NN-
GH
...

WE'RE
ALSO
KNOWN
AS...



WE'RE
JUST
ORDINARY
MICE!







WE ONLY
STEAL
FROM
OTHER
CRIMINALS.

THE 500
CORNERED
RATS
CORPS
IS A GANG
OF THIEVES
THAT'S
ACTUALLY
MADE UP OF
500 MICE.



DONE!

DID YOU
STEAL THE
WATCH
OF THE
INARI-
GUMI'S
SLOWEST
GANG
MEMBER
?

DONE
!

DID YOU
OPEN THE
BLACK
MARKET
AUXILIARY
SAFE FULL
OF CAR-
NIVORE
DRUGS?



THE
BIGGER
THE
CRIMI-
NAL,
THE
BETTER
THE
TARGET
FOR
US...

WE'VE
COMPILED A
MASTER LIST
OF EVERY
THIEF AND
BURGLAR IN
THE CITY.

THE 500
OF US
HAVE
MAPPED
OUT THE
ENTIRE
BLACK
MARKET
AND ITS
SUR-
ROUND-
INGS.



IT PISSES
US OFF THAT
THEY IGNORE
US...
BUT THAT
JUST MAKES
IT MORE
SATISFYING
WHEN WE
OUTWIT A
MUCH
BIGGER
BEAST!



BOSS!
WHERE TO
NEXT?

I HAVE TO
PROVIDE
FOR 499
MICE...



BOSS
...?!

BIP!



...BE-
NEATH
THEIR
NOTICE.

...BE-
CAUSE
WE'RE
COM-
PLETLY
...

NOW THAT WE'VE CAUGHT THEIR RING-LEADER, OUR MISSION IS COMPLETE. SO...WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL THE OTHER MICE?

STILL, IT TOOK US A WHOLE YEAR TO APPREHEND THEM!

THE RUMORS WERE TRUE. IT WASN'T EASY TRACKING DOWN THE 500 CORNERED RATS CORPS, BUT THE SCENT OF BLOOD ON THEIR BOSS'S LEGS GAVE THEM AWAY.



W-WE...

...WON'T ABANDON YOU! WE'LL COME WITH YOU!

DASH

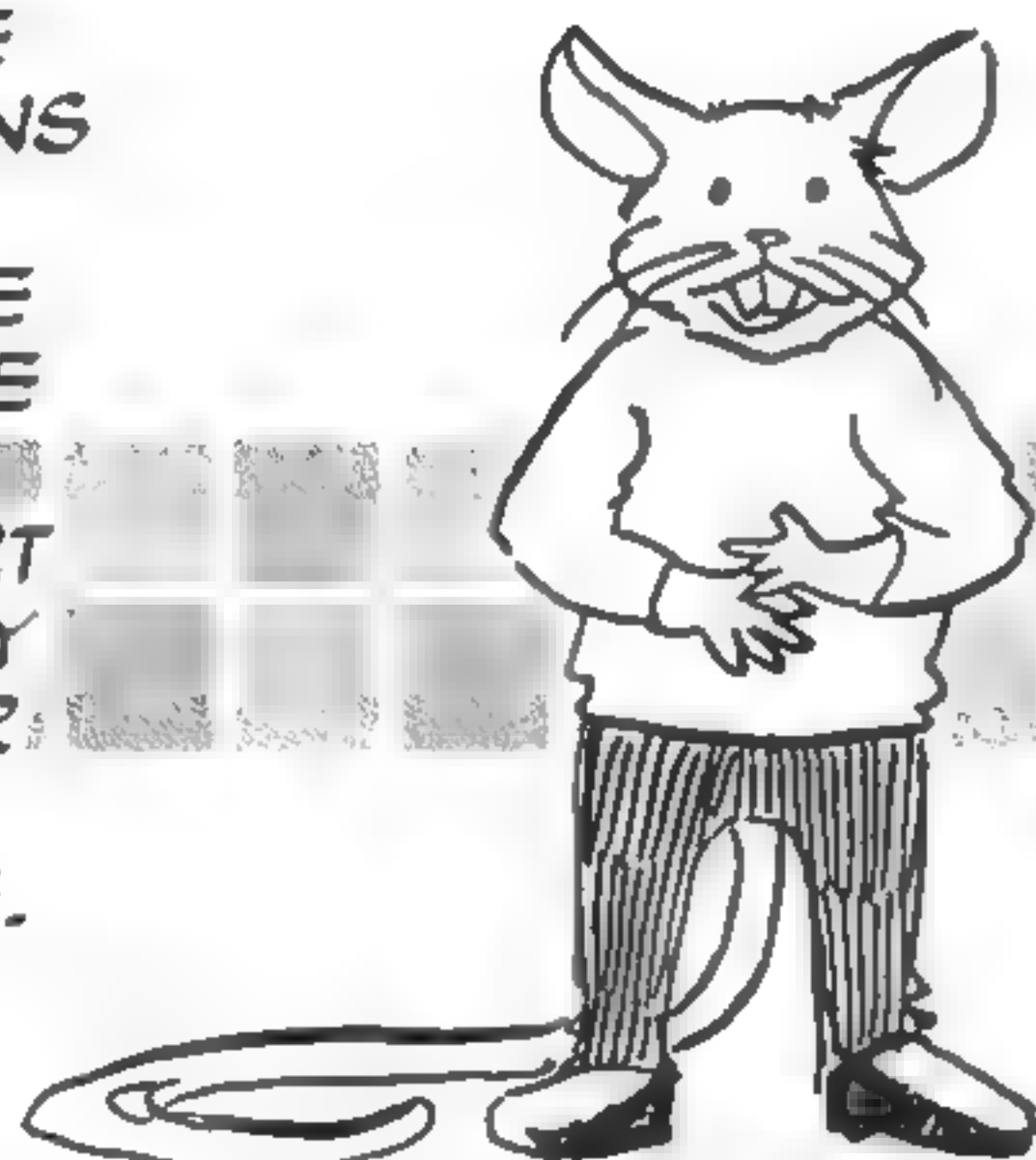


RUN FOR IT, GUYS!

YOU'RE FINISHED IF THE POLICE CAPTURE YOU! GO!

THE AVERAGE LIFE SPAN OF A MURIDAE IS 43 YEARS.

BUT THE
LIFE SPANS
OF US
MURIDAE
STAY THE
SAME.
WE CAN'T
LIVE ANY
LONGER
THAN
BEFORE.



THANKS TO
MODERN
MEDICINE, THE
LIFE SPANS
OF SMALL
ANIMALS LIKE
LEPORIDAE,
MUSTELIDAE,
AND
SCIURIDAE
CAN BE
EXTENDED.



BUT WE
REFUSE
TO BE
INVISIBLE
JUST
'CAUSE
WE'RE
SMALL!

THAT'S
HOW
IT AL-
WAYS
GOES
...

DON'T
YOU HAVE
ANYTHING
SMALLER
?

SO
OTHER
BEASTS
TREAT
MURIDAE
AS
EXPEND-
ABLE
AND
INSIGNI-
FICANT.

NOT
HERE.

Small
Beast
Route

IF OUR
LIVES ARE
SHORT, WE'LL
LIVE 'EM 500
TIMES MORE
INTENSELY
THAN AN
ORDINARY
MOUSE.
THAT'S LIKE
LIVIN' 21,500
YEARS.

500 Co
Rats ^{nered}
Corps

WE'VE
GOT
OUR
PRIDE!



SPLAT

BRACE
YOUR-
SELVES
WITH
YER
BACKS
!

CURL
UP!
PULL
IN YER
CLAWS
AND
FANGS!



**KA
WH
A
CK**

STILL
REFUSE
TO TELL US
WHERE
YOUR HEAD-
QUARTERS
ARE?!
WHAT'S MORE
VALUABLE
TO YOU?

THE
THINGS
YOU STOLE
OR YOUR
LIVES?!





IT'LL
BE A
PIECE
OF
CAKE TO
COVER
UP YOUR
DEATHS.

THE
POLICE
DON'T
CARE HOW
MANY
MOUSE
CRIMINALS
DIE.

THERE
ARE 500
OF YOU, BUT
ALL YOUR LIVES
ARE SHORT.
DO YOU PLAN TO
DIE HERE FOR
NOTHING?



DO YOU
HEAR
ME?!

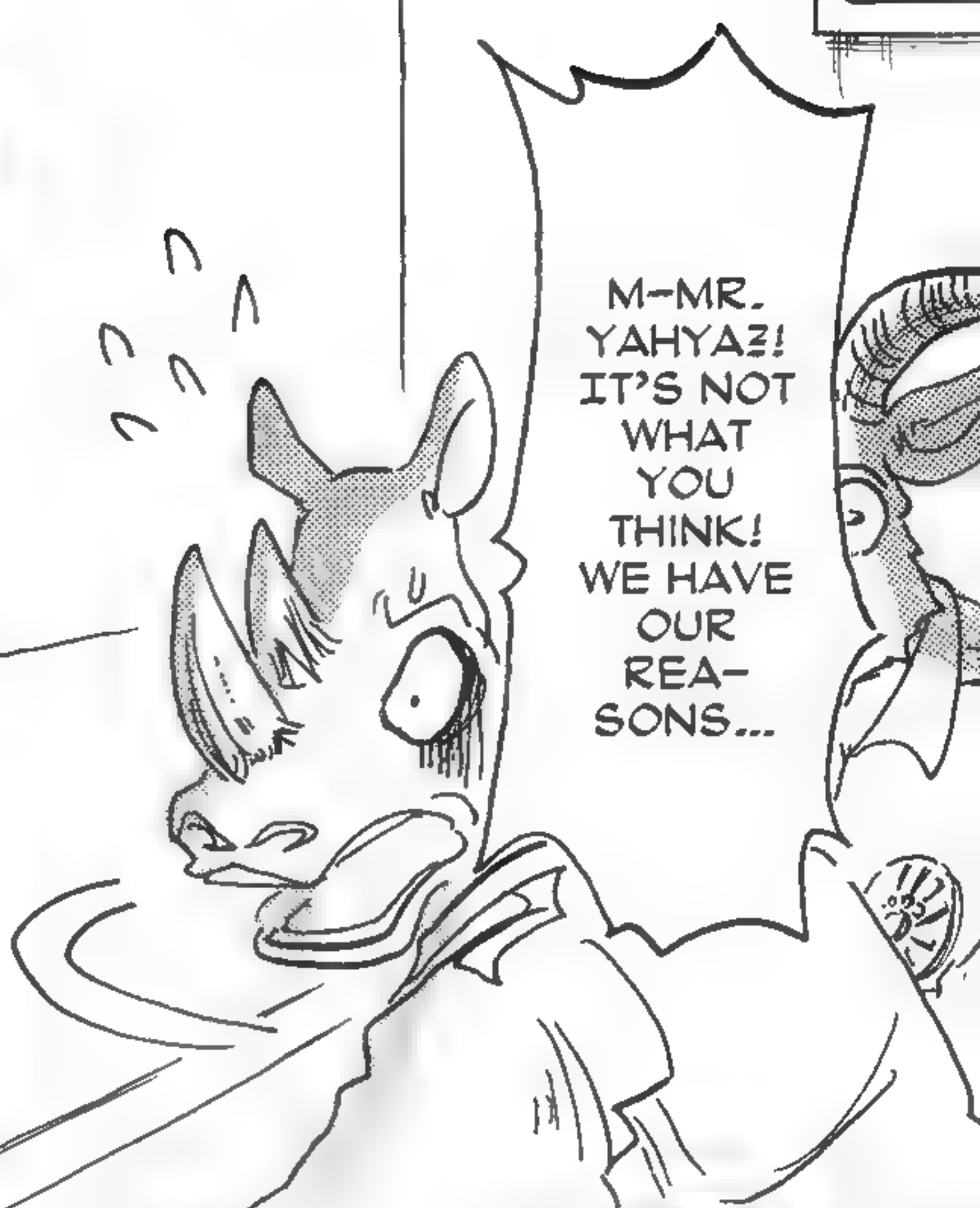


**SMALL
LIVES
MATTER!**



SMALL SPECIES THAT AUTOMATIC DOORS CAN'T SENSE...

LARGE SPECIES LIKE YOU WHO WEIGH A TON...



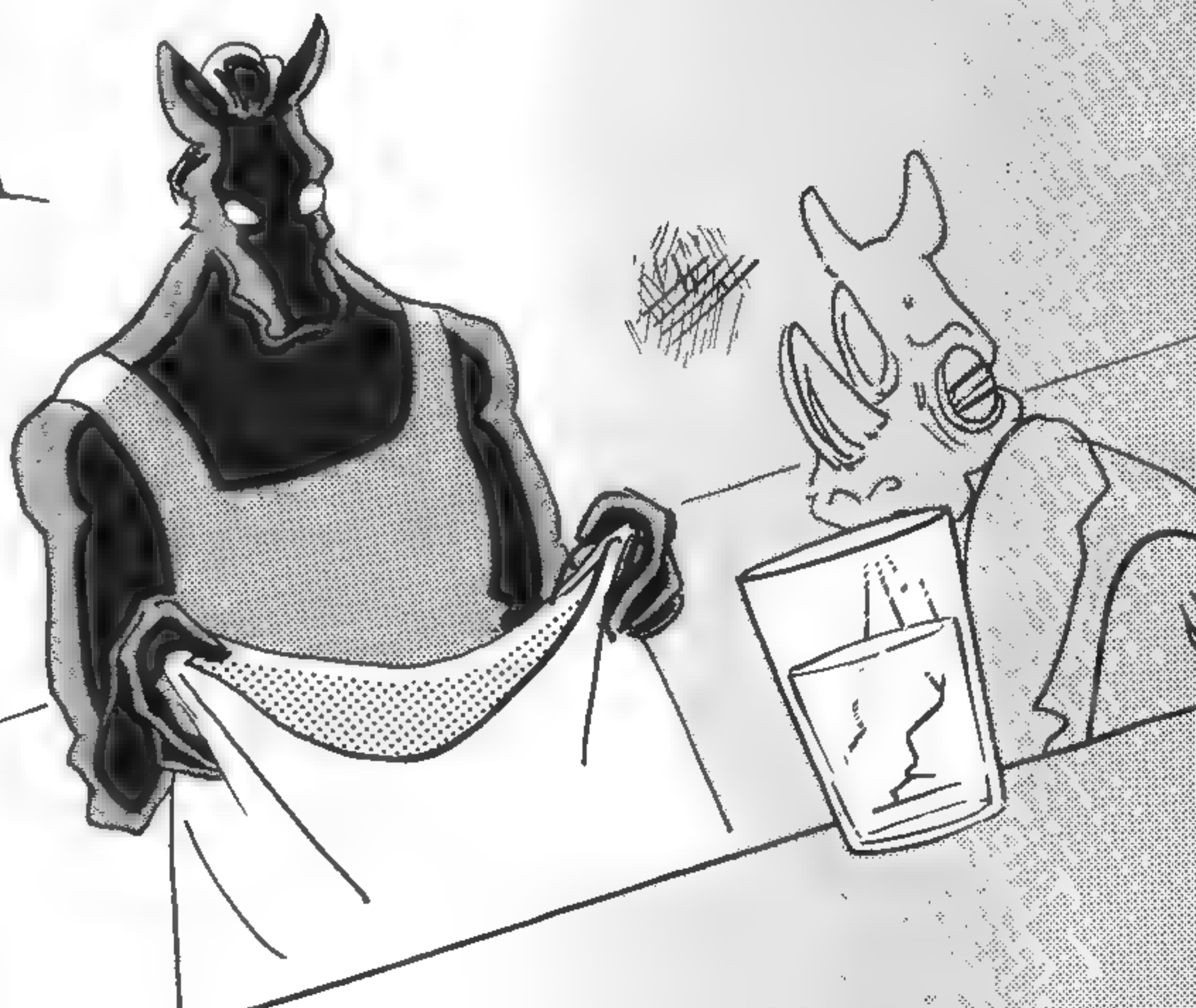
M-MR. YAHYAZ! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! WE HAVE OUR REAS- SONS...



AND ME.



WE'RE ALL THE SAME.







WE DON'T
GOT A
CHOICE.
LET'S JUST
GIVE 'IM
WHAT HE
WANTS.

...



YEAH
!

HE'S A
LARGE
ANIMAL,
BUT WE
LIKE HIM!



I CAN'T
IGNORE
THE
DIFFER-
ENCE
IN OUR
HEART
RATES.

IT'S BEEN
TEN YEARS
SINCE WE
STARTED
WORKIN'
FOR YA...
BUT I AIN'T
GOT MUCH
TIME LEFT...
HEH HEH...

I
COULDN'T
HELP BUT
SMILE TO
MYSELF,
BECAUSE
YOU WERE SO
ARROGANT...
IT'S A FOND
MEMORY
NOW.

BUT THANKS
FOR TAKIN' CARE
OF AN OLD
GEEZER LIKE
ME...

NAH...
I CAN'T.

YOU
CAN
STILL DO
YOUR
JOB,
BOSS.

...MR.
YAHYA.

YOU'RE
NOT SURE
WHAT THE
RIGHT
THING TO
DO IS...

I'VE
SPENT A
QUARTER
OF MY LIFE
WITH YOU.
I KNOW
YA LIKE
THE BACK
OF MY
PAW.

YOU SHOULDN'T
BE SO OBSESSED
WITH ONE CRIMINAL.
YOU CAN'T JUST
FOCUS ON
HIM.



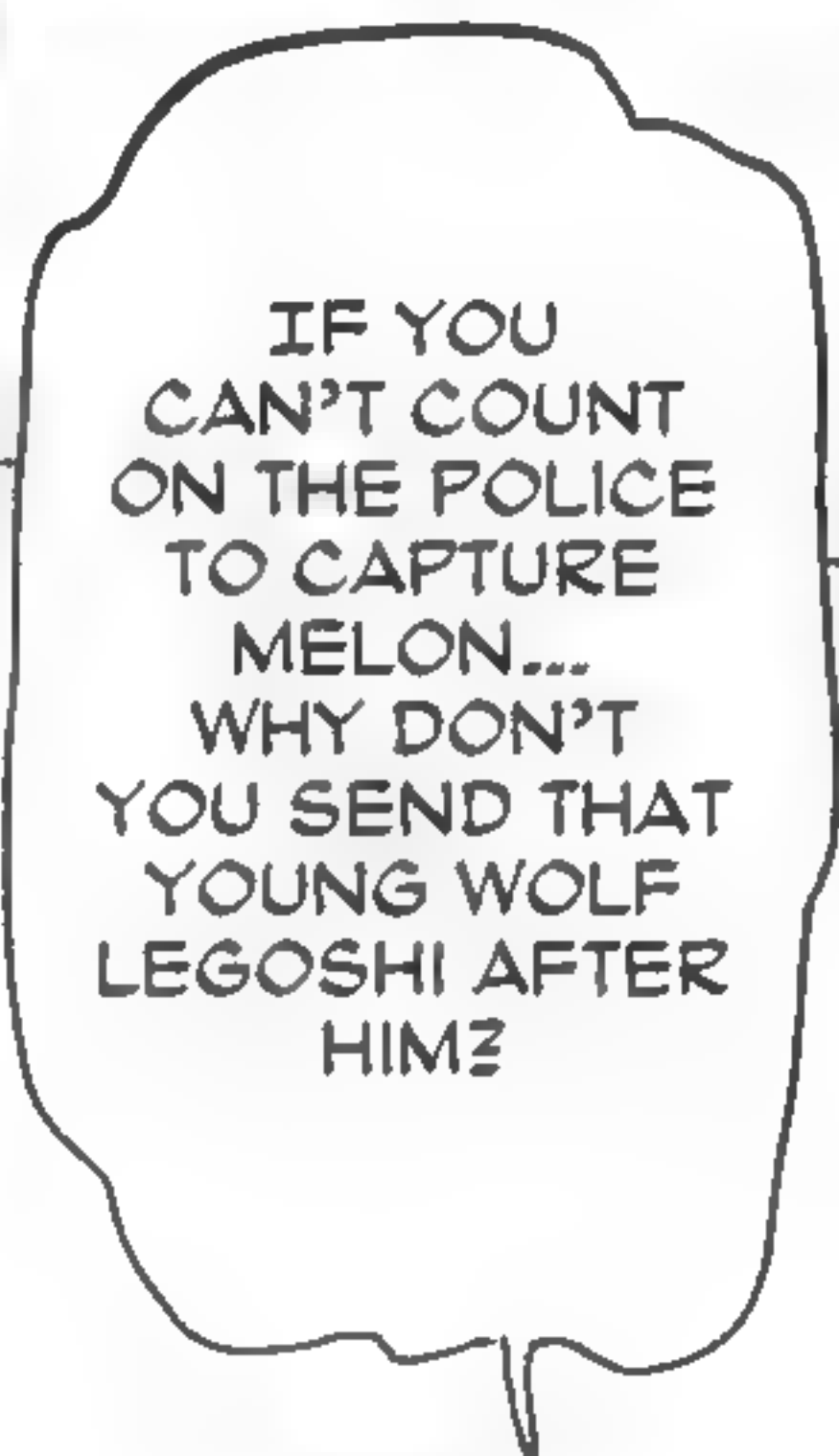
...AND
SAVE
THEM.

YOUR JOB
IS TO KEEP
A WATCH-
FUL EYE ON
WEAKER
BEASTS
LIKE US...



BESIDES,
I'VE
ALREADY
CANCELED
OUR
CONTRACT.

HE'S
EVEN
LESS
DEPEND-
ABLE
THAN THE
POLICE
...



IF YOU
CAN'T COUNT
ON THE POLICE
TO CAPTURE
MELON...
WHY DON'T
YOU SEND THAT
YOUNG WOLF
LEGOSHI AFTER
HIM?



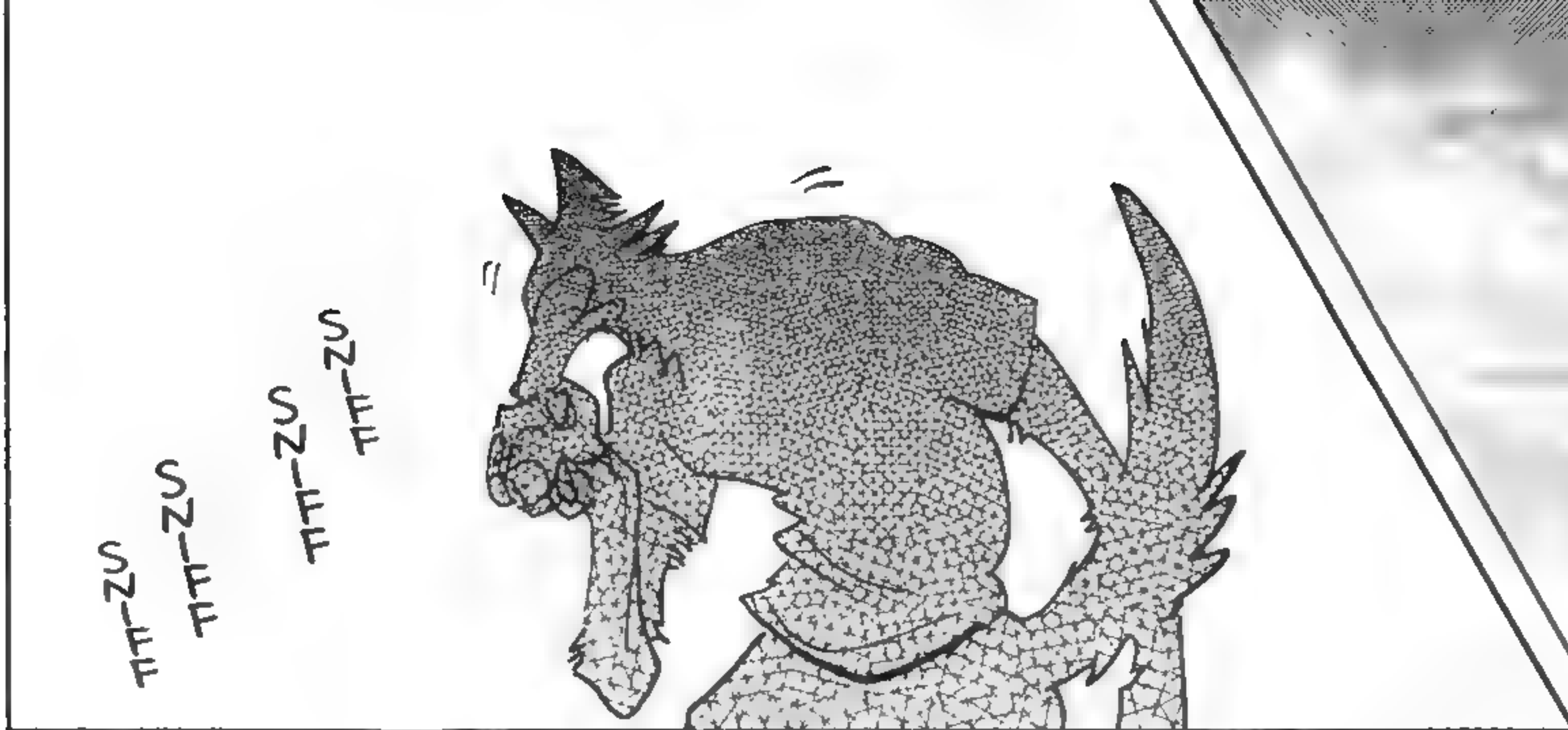
...A
PIECE
OF EVI-
DENCE.

BUT YOU
SE-
CRETLY
GAVE
HIM...



...AT THE
COSTUME
BALL...

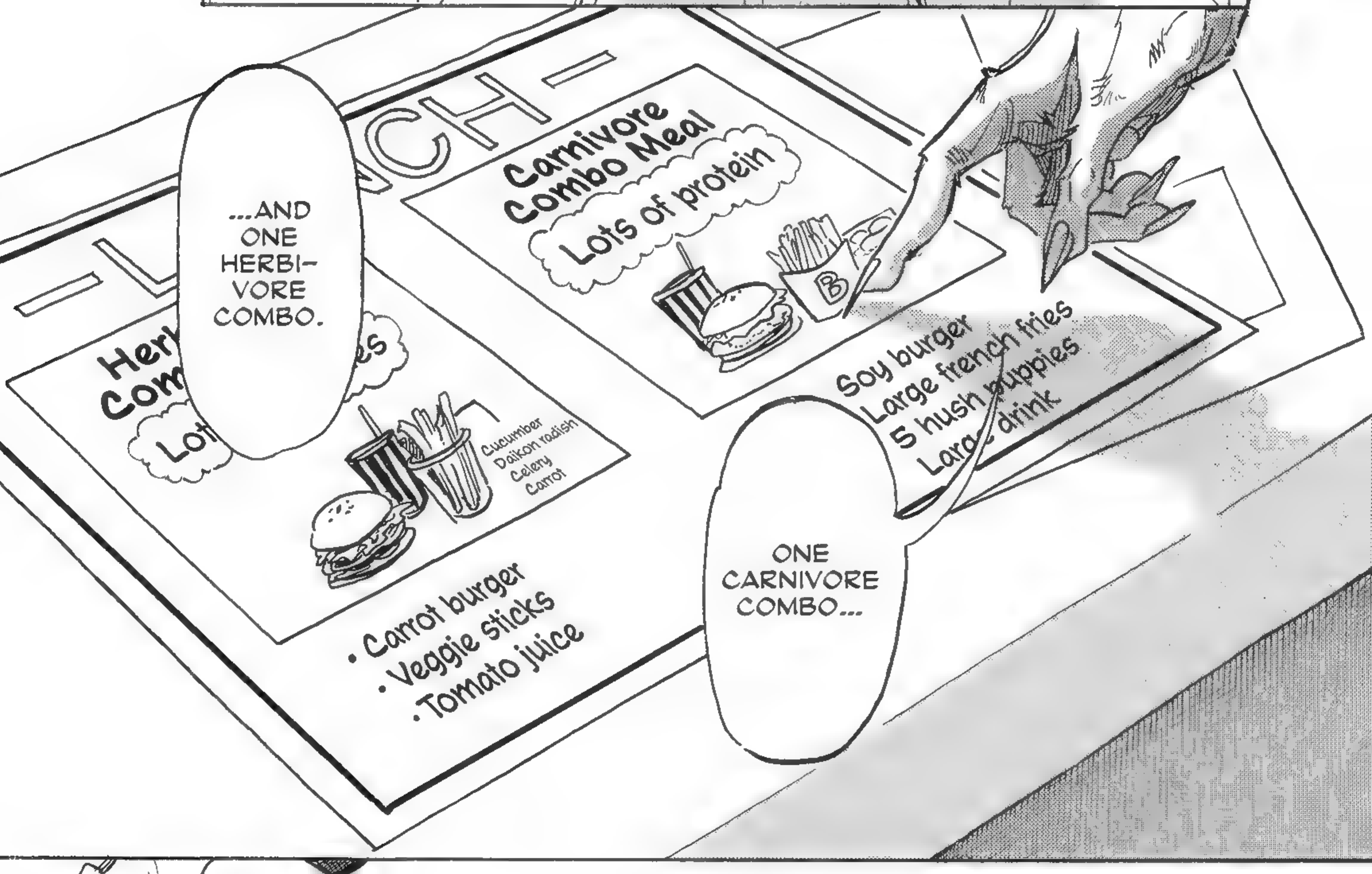
THE
MASK
MELON
WAS
WEARING...



YOU'RE
SECRETLY
HOPING...

...THAT
HE'S
STILL
TRACKING
MELON,
AREN'T
YOU?

Chapter 139: The Crimson Sky, Plowing the Field





I'M
ALONE...

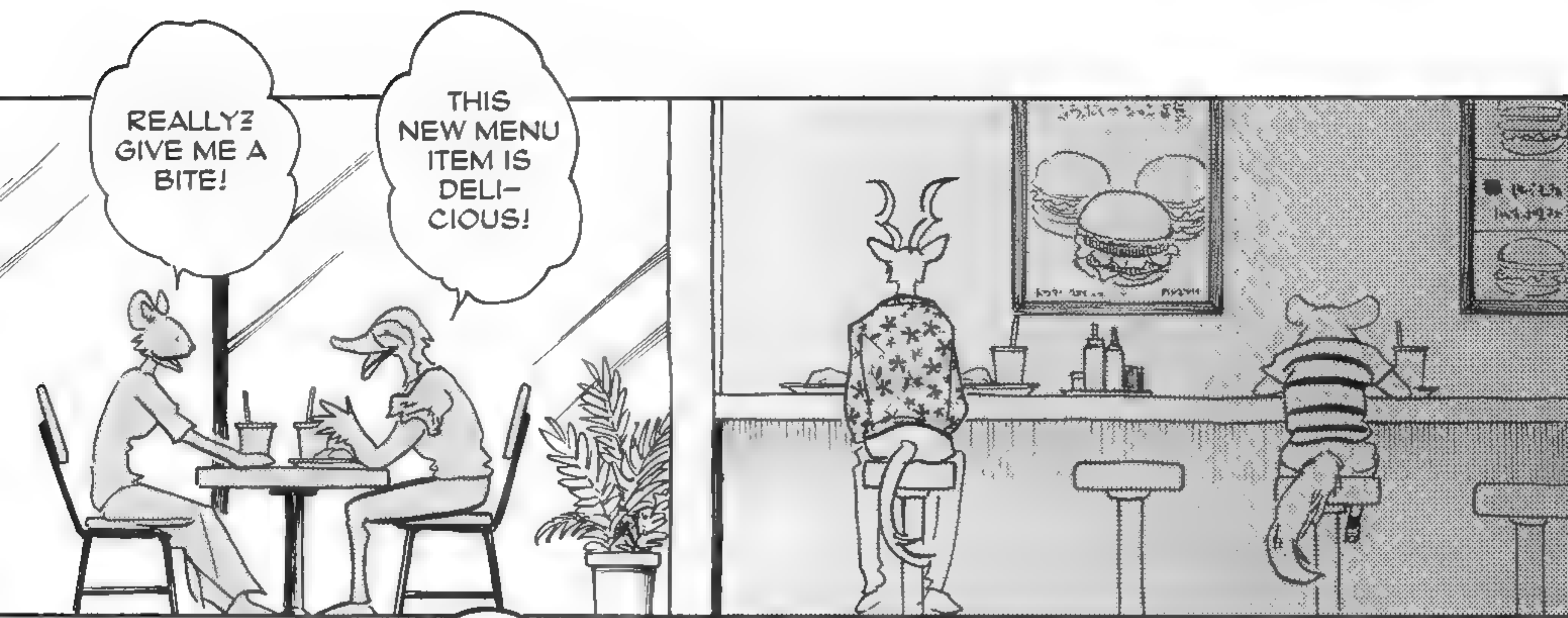
ONE
CARNIVORE
COMBO
AND ONE
HERBIVORE
COMBO—
ALL FOR
ME.



C-
COM-
ING
RIGHT
UP...

...BUT
I'M
STARV-
ING.

**Chapter 139: The Crimson Sky,
Plowing the Field**



REALLY?
GIVE ME A
BITE!

THIS
NEW MENU
ITEM IS
DELI-
CIOUS!

YEAH,
IT'S
GOOD!

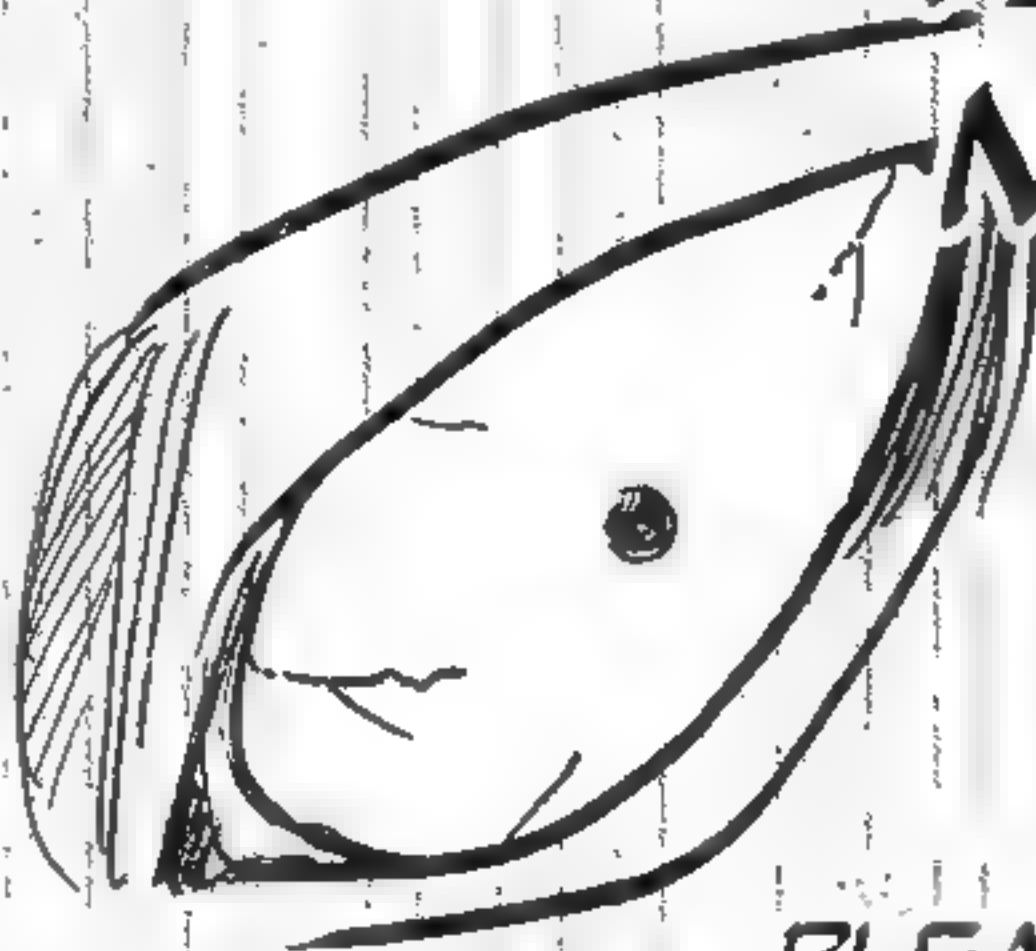
HEY...

WHAT
THE
HELL...

...DOES
"DELICIOUS"...

...MEAN,
ANYWAY?

SO
TELL
ME!



PLEASE...



HEH...
I WANTED
TO KILL
HER, BUT
JUST FOR
A SECOND.

Sigh...



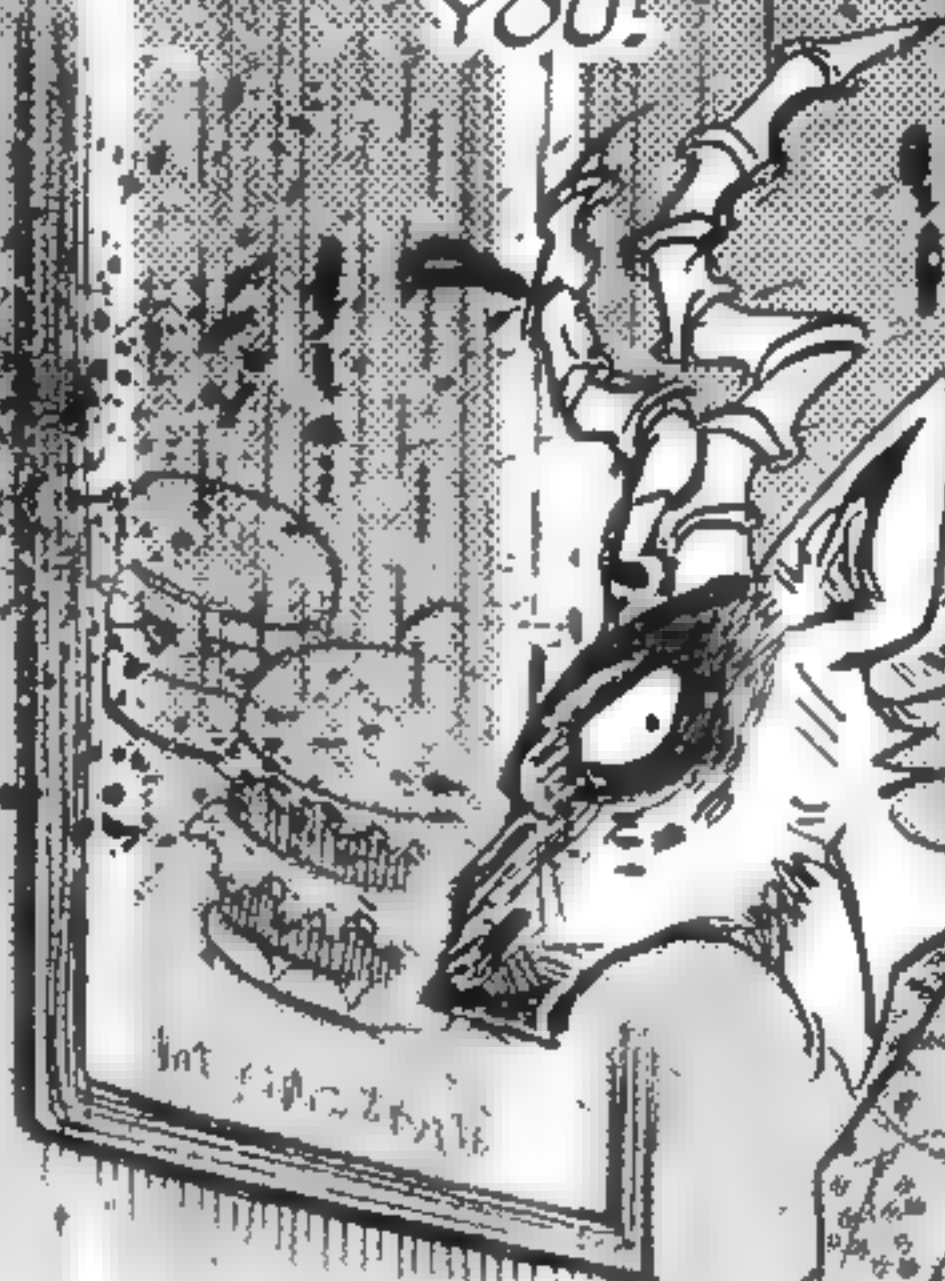
I DON'T
HAVE A
SENSE OF
TASTE...

NOT THE
TASTE OF AN
HERBIVORE
OR A
CARNIVORE.

I WANT
TO KNOW
THE
MEANING
OF THE
WORD
"DELI-
CIOUS"!

I'M GOING
TO RIP
OFF YOUR
FEATHERS,
TURN YOU
INTO A LUMP
OF BRIGHT-
PINK FLESH,
TAKE A BIG
BITE...AND
INTERROGATE
YOU!

...AVES.
HOW DARE
YOU THROW
AROUND
THE WORD
"DELICIOUS"
IN MY
PRESENCE!





FOR A
MIXED-
BLOOD
BEAST
LIKE
ME,
EVERY-
THING...

TASTES
LIKE
SAND.

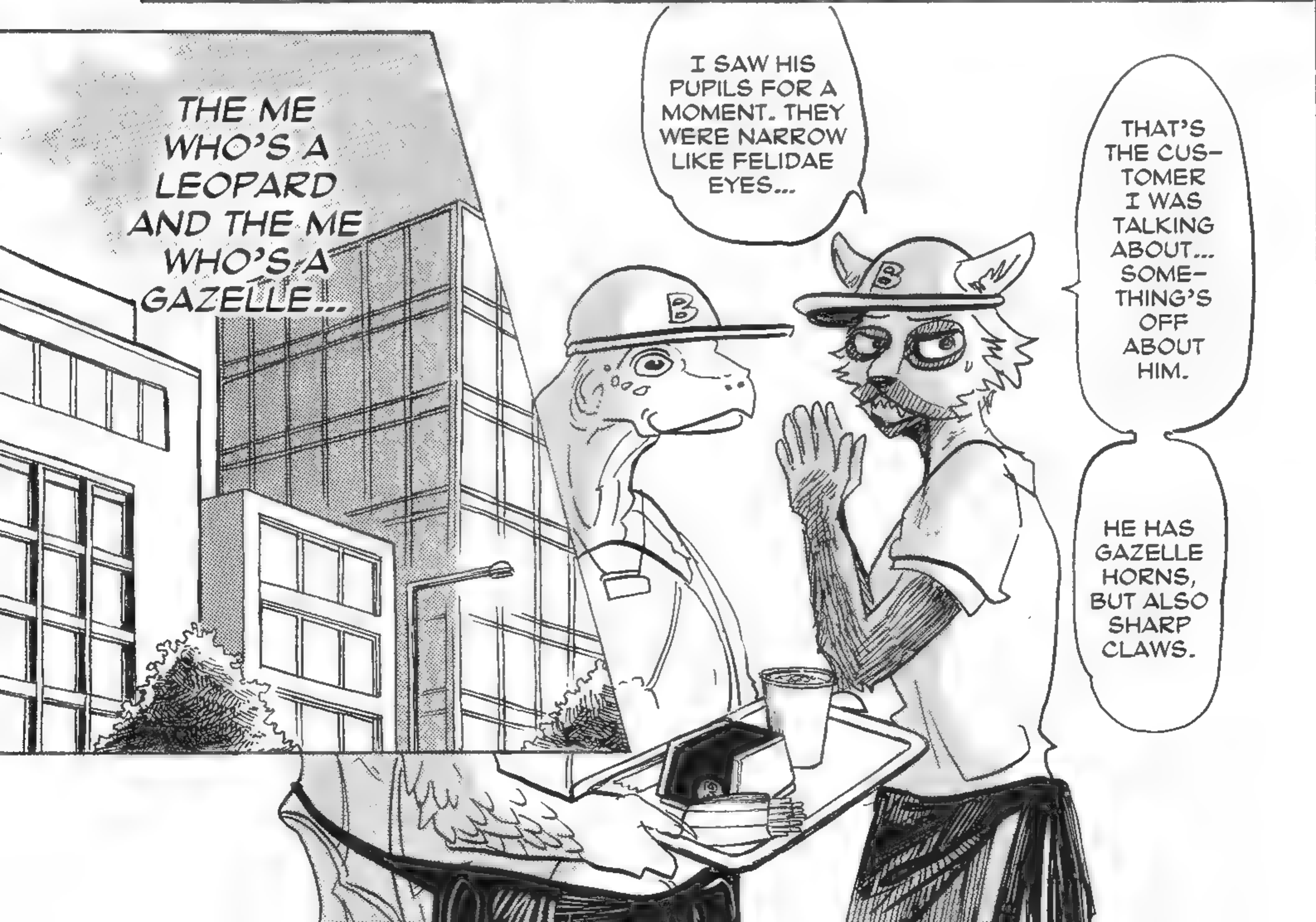
VEGETABLES.
EGGS.
VITAMINS.
PROTEIN.
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH I
FLAVOR THEM,
NO MATTER
HOW I
PREPARE
THEM...

SQUEEEEEZE



THANK
YOU.
PLEASE
COME
AGAIN.

I THOUGHT MY
SENSE OF TASTE
MIGHT HAVE
TRANSFORMED AFTER
WHAT I DID THIS
MORNING...
BUT NO LUCK.

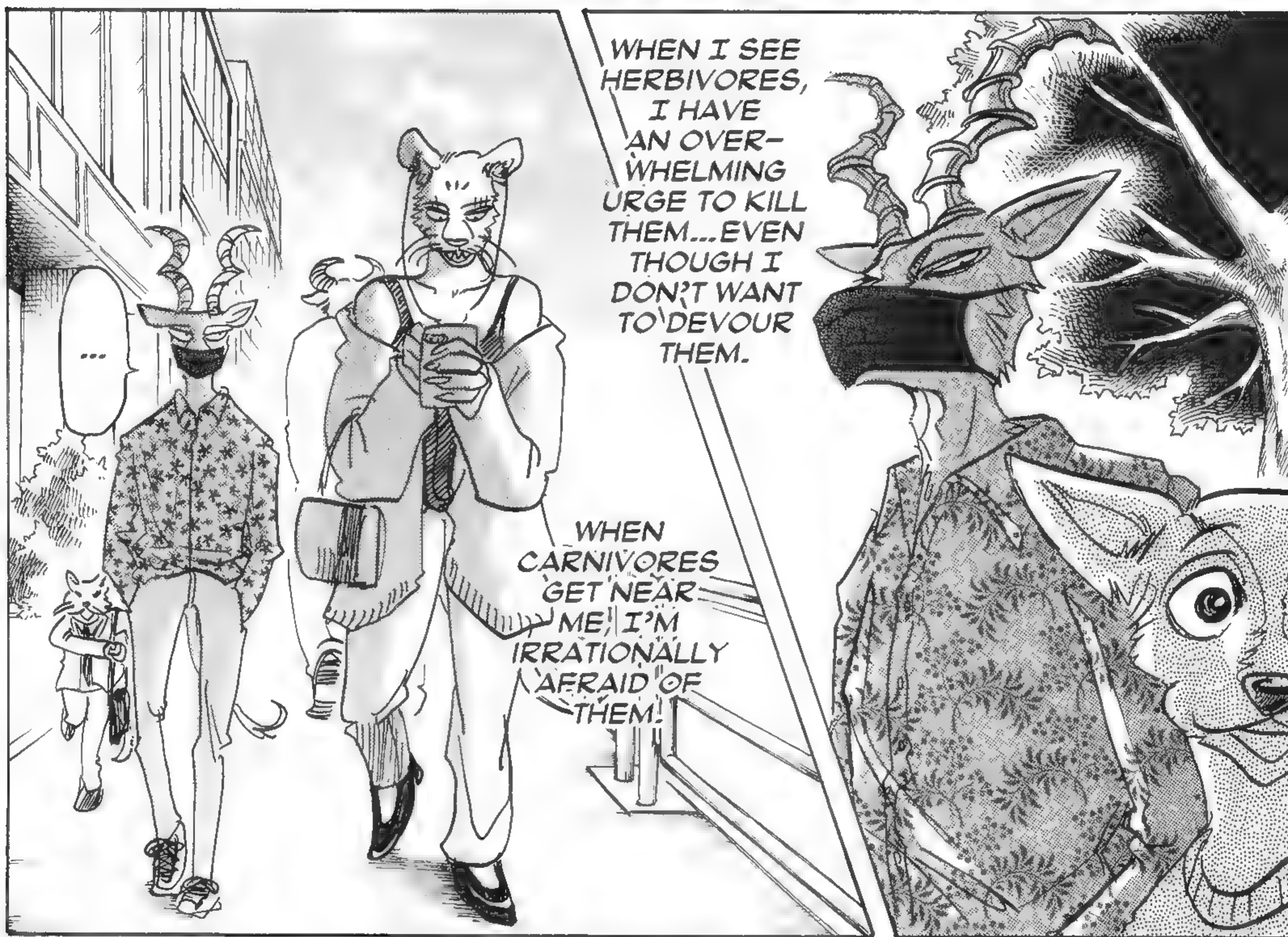


THE ME
WHO'S A
LEOPARD
AND THE ME
WHO'S A
GAZELLE...

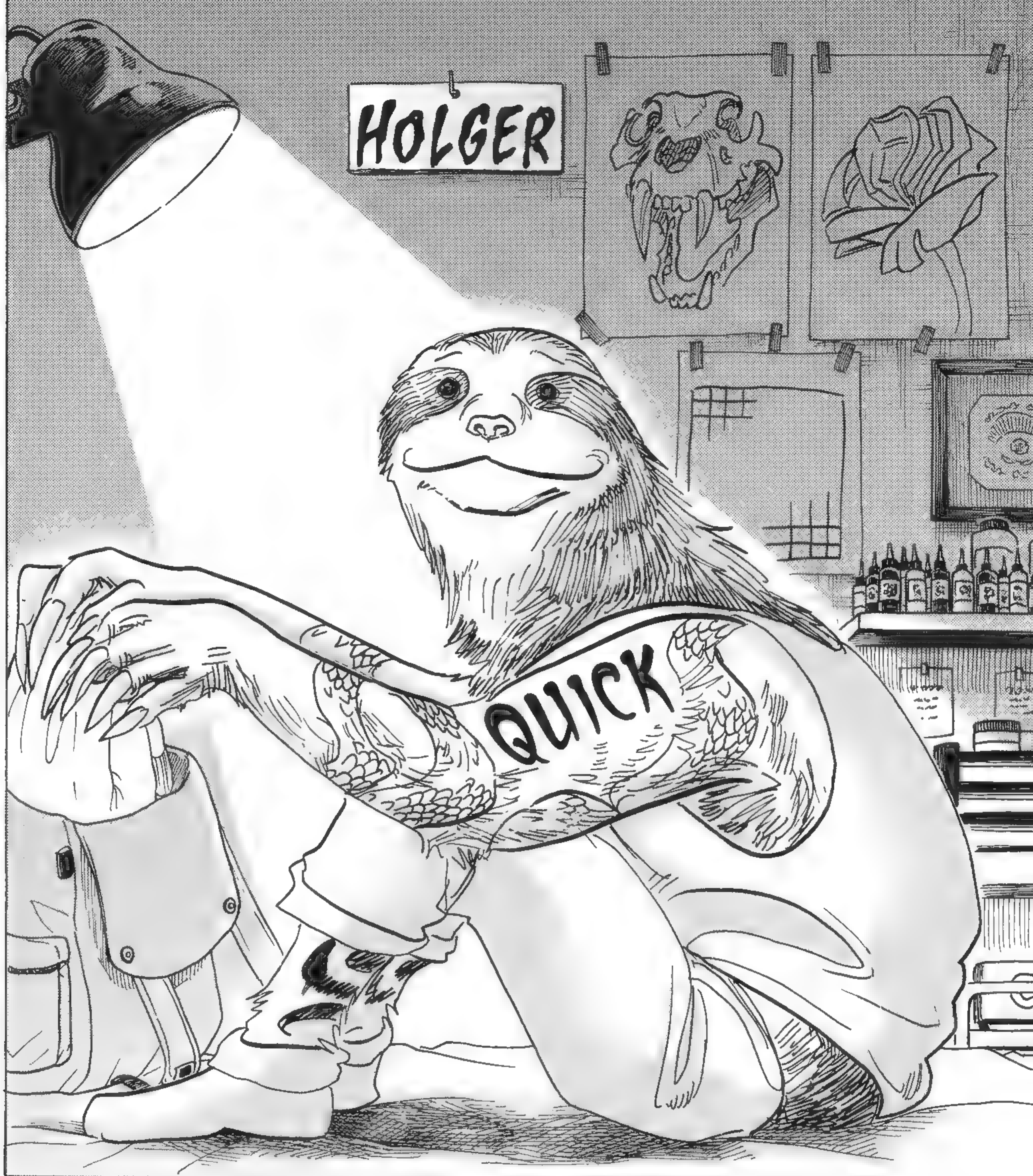
I SAW HIS
PUPILS FOR A
MOMENT. THEY
WERE NARROW
LIKE FELIDAE
EYES...

THAT'S
THE CUS-
TOMER
I WAS
TALKING
ABOUT...
SOME-
THING'S
OFF
ABOUT
HIM.

HE HAS
GAZELLE
HORNS,
BUT ALSO
SHARP
CLAWS.









WHY DO
BEASTS CALL
HOLGER
"PSYCHO
KILLER"?



OH,
RIGHT,
YOU'RE
STILL NEW
HERE.

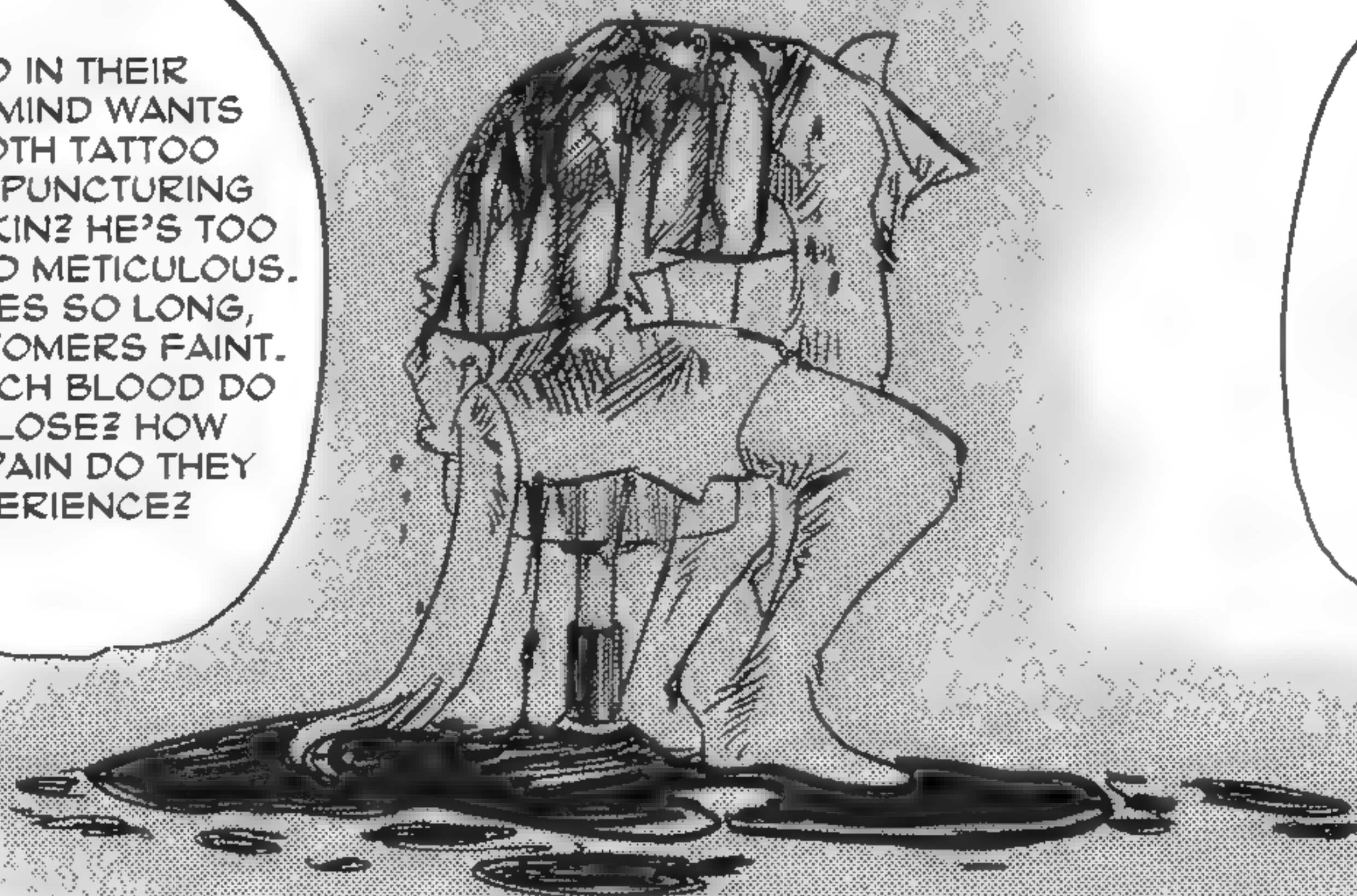
I
HOPE HE
SURVIVES...
I DON'T
WANT TO
CARRY
ANY MORE
CARCASSES
OUT OF
HERE...



HOLGER'S
INK SKILLS
ARE SECOND
TO NONE...
HE'S FAMOUS
IN THE BLACK
MARKET FOR
HIS BEAUTIFUL
ARTWORK.
CUSTOMERS
FLOCK TO
HIM.



WHO IN THEIR
RIGHT MIND WANTS
A SLOTH TATTOO
ARTIST PUNCTURING
THEIR SKIN? HE'S TOO
SLOW AND METICULOUS.
HE TAKES SO LONG,
HIS CUSTOMERS FAINT.
HOW MUCH BLOOD DO
THEY LOSE? HOW
MUCH PAIN DO THEY
EXPERIENCE?



BUT THINK
ABOUT IT...



MELON IS
HOLGER'S
ONLY
CUSTOMER
NOW.

SOME
OF HIS
CUSTOMERS
HAVE EVEN DIED!
BUT HE DOESN'T
CARE. HE KEEPS
ON WORKING
AS A TATTOO
ARTIST. THAT'S
WHY BEASTS
ARE AFRAID OF
HIM AND CALL
HIM PSYCHO
KILLER.



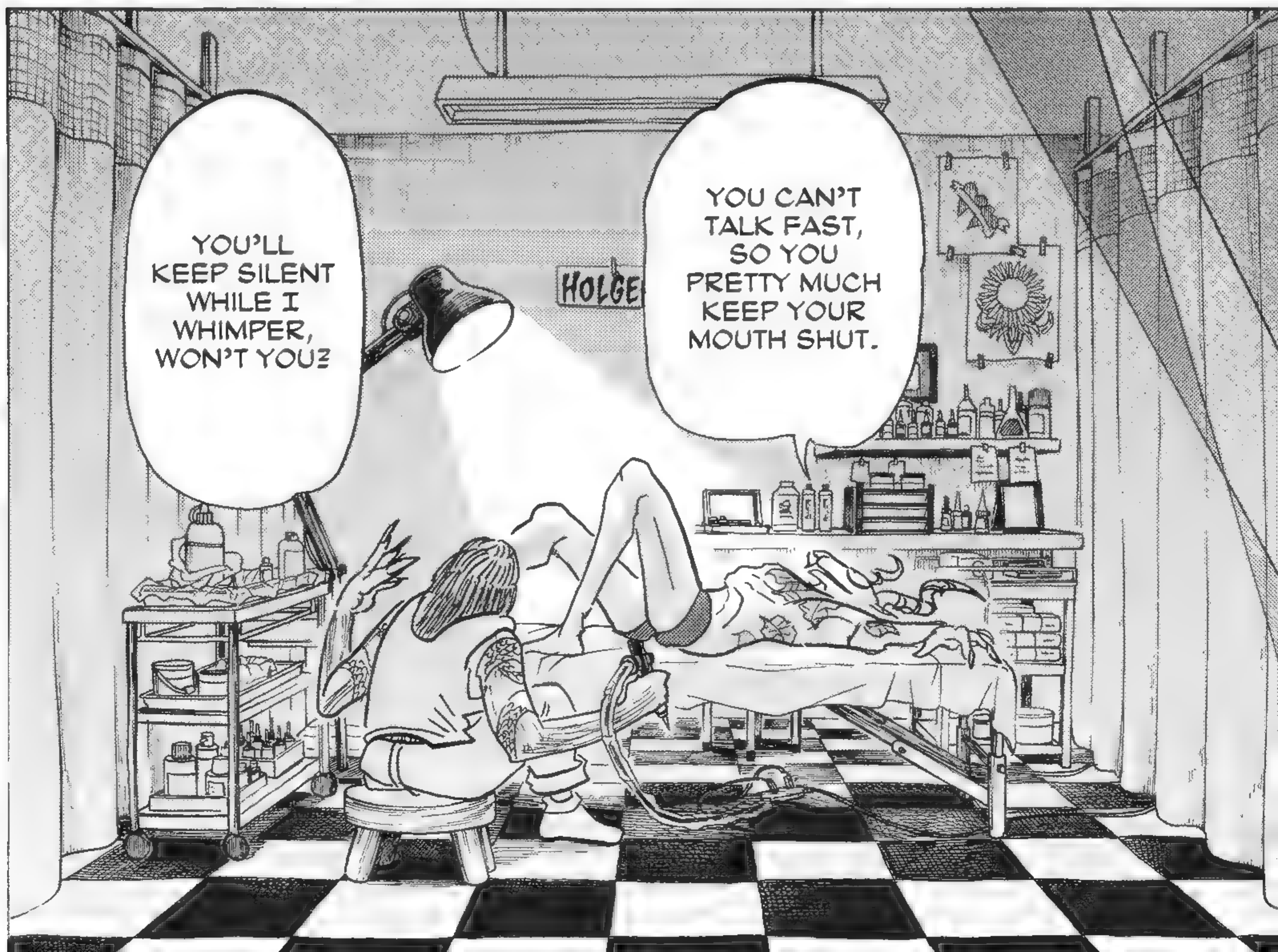
HOLGER
...

YOU KNOW
WHAT I
WANT YOU
TO DO...



I NEED
YOU TO
TATTOO
MELON
LEAVES
OVER
THEM LIKE
USUAL.

LEOPARD
SPOTS HAVE
STARTED TO
APPEAR ON
THE LOWER
HALF OF MY
BODY NOW.





ALL
SPECIES
FEEL PAIN.
IT'S PROOF
YOU'RE NOT
DEAD.

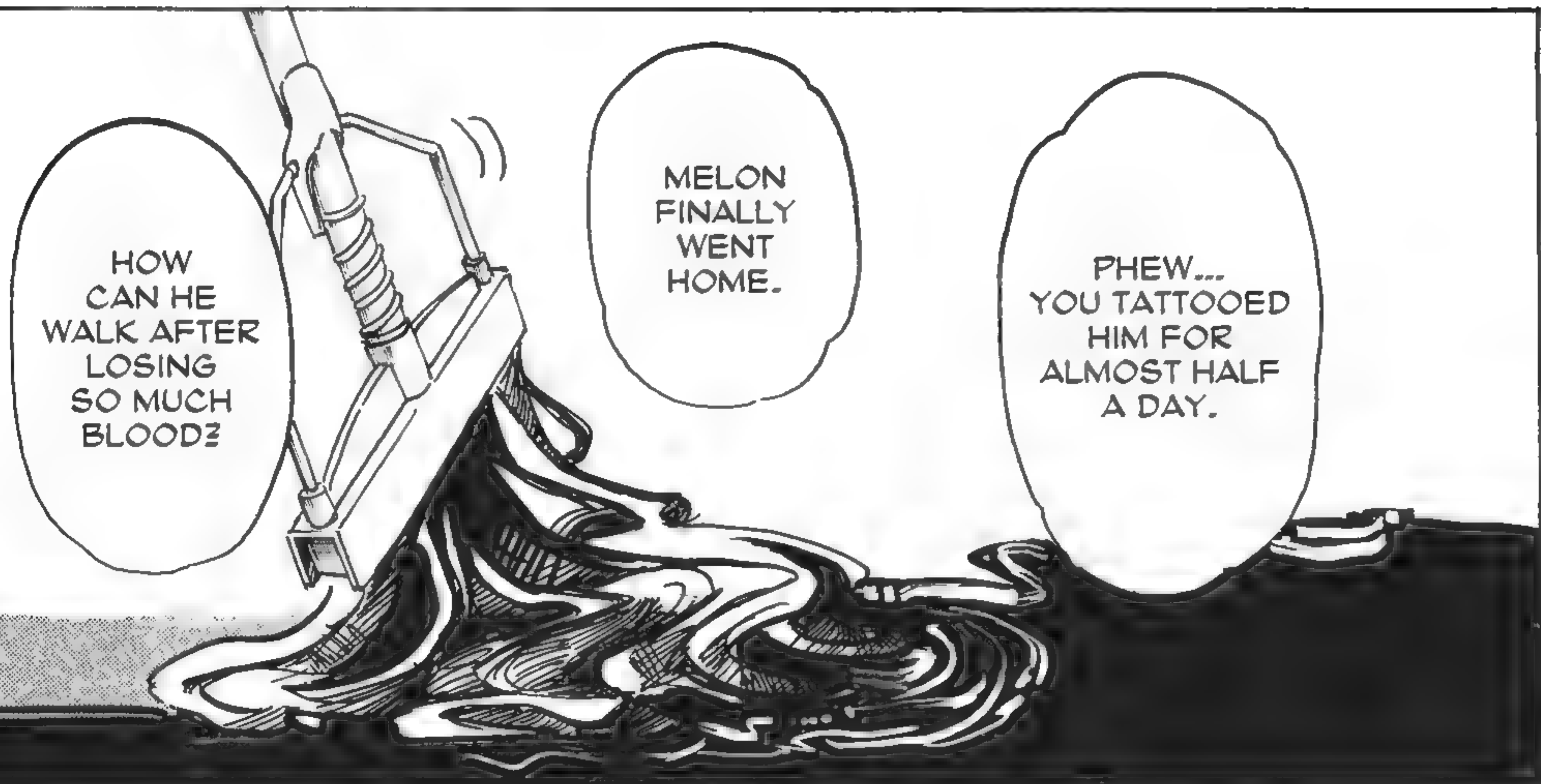
I
WONDER
WHAT I'LL
BECOME...
WHEN MY
MELON-
FIELD
BEARS
FRUIT.



MY
FUTURE
IS
BRIGHT!

BZZZZZZZ

MY
FUTURE
IS
BRIGHT!



HOW
CAN HE
WALK AFTER
LOSING
SO MUCH
BLOOD?

MELON
FINALLY
WENT
HOME.

PHEW...
YOU TATTOOED
HIM FOR
ALMOST HALF
A DAY.



I WISH
YOU'D AT LEAST
CLEAN UP THE
MESS YOU MADE...
BUT IT'D TAKE
YOU A WEEK.

YOU, IN
THE NEXT
BOOTH!
IN CASE
YOU'RE
WONDERING,
NOTHING
SUSPICIOUS
IS GOING ON
HERE...
NO ONE
WAS
KILLED.





MY SENSE OF
SMELL WASN'T
GOOD ENOUGH. BUT
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE
NOW...

I TRACKED
MELON'S
SCENT. IT WAS
HARD WORK
FINDING THIS
PLACE. BUT
MELON'S
ALREADY
LEFT.

YOU WANT
A TATTOO
ON YOUR
SHOULDER?
WHAT DESIGN?



THE
DATE
?!

WELL, UM...
HOW
ABOUT...
TODAY'S
DATE?

I'M SORRY,
MOM...
I'M ADDING
ANOTHER
SCAR TO
MY BODY.



WHAT...
DESIGN?

YEAH.



ACTUALLY, I'M
GLAD I DIDN'T RUN
INTO MELON WHEN
I ARRIVED. SEEMS
LIKE HE'S A
REGULAR.
I CAN GET SOME
INFORMATION
FROM THE STAFF
INSTEAD.

HELLO...
MELON...

AH... YOU
BROUGHT A
DANGEROUS
OBJECT
WITH YOU
AGAIN...

WHAT?
IS
SOME-
THING
WRONG?

I'M NOT
LAZY...

MAYBE
I CAN GET
SOME
INFORMATION
OFF HIM
THOUGH...

IS THAT
TATTOO ARTIST
JUST REPLYING
TO MELON NOW?
AFTER HE'S LEFT
ALREADY?!



BUT A
MIXED-
BLOOD
BEAST LIKE
ME HAS NO
DESIRES.

EVERYONE
INDULGES
THEIR
SENSUAL
DESIRES TO
FORGET THE
PAIN OF
LIVING.

IT'S
AS IF I
LIVE MY
LIFE...

WITHOUT
A PENIS OR
A STOMACH.

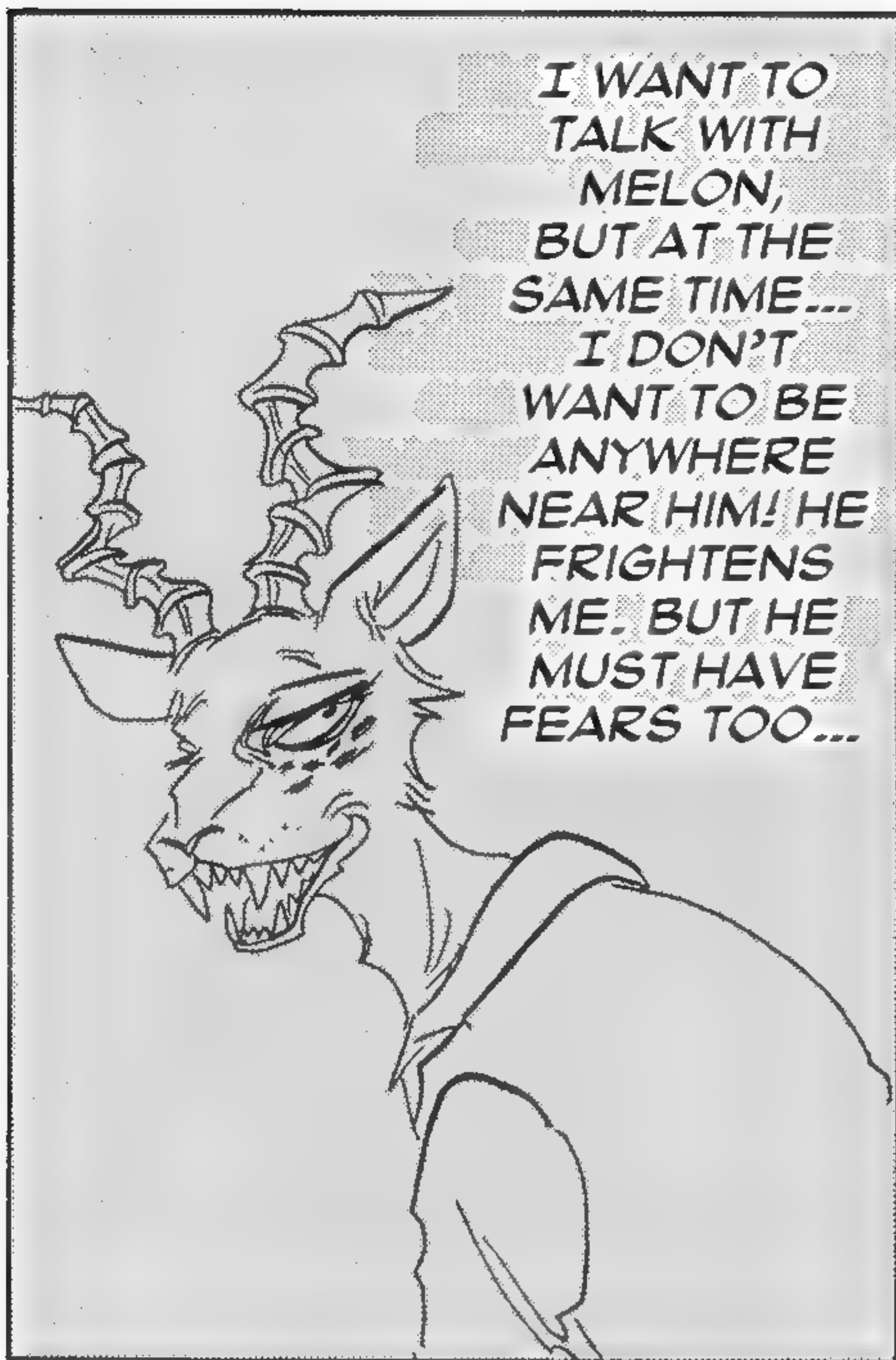
...AS IF HE'S
ACTUALLY
THERE, RIGHT
NEXT TO ME...



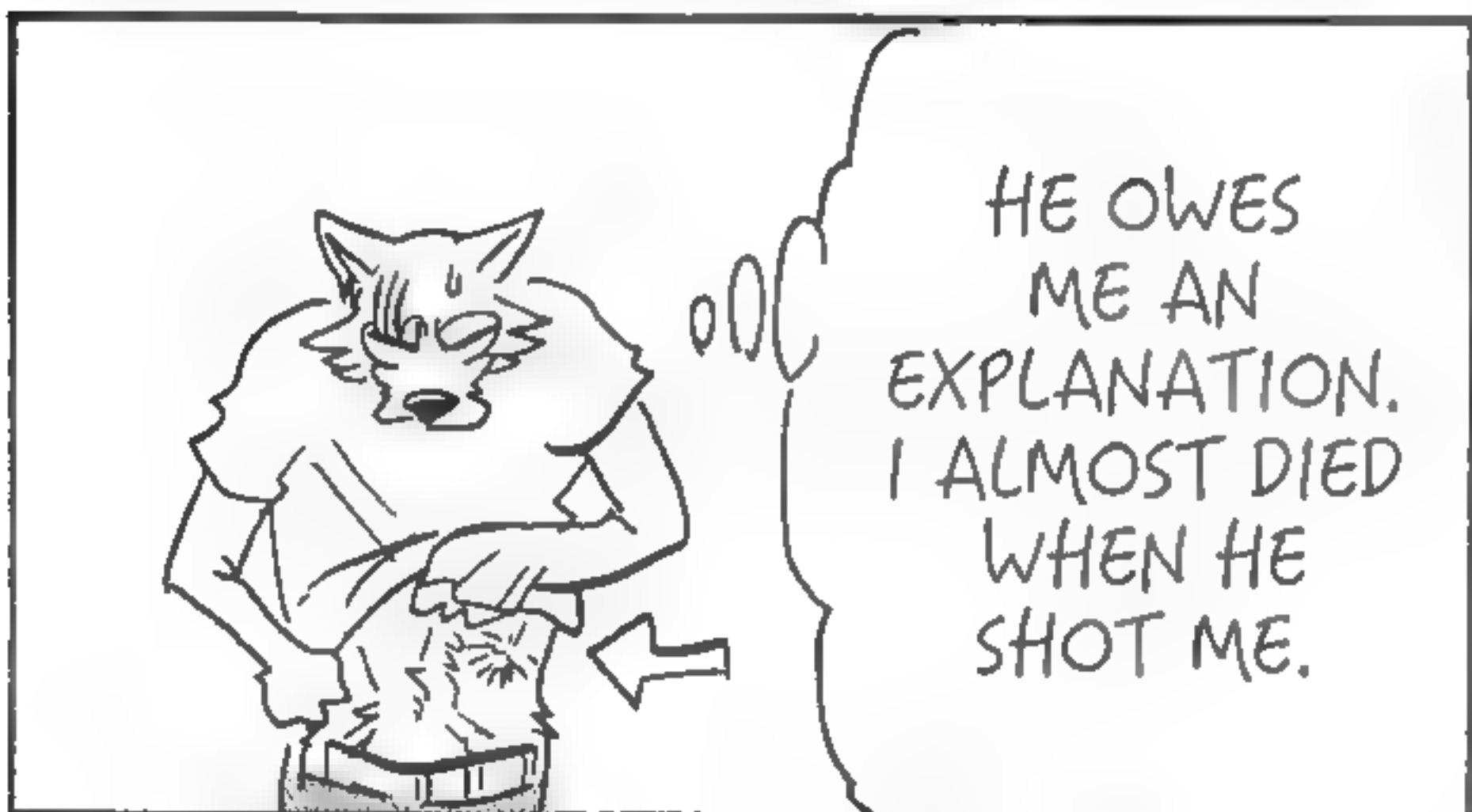
IT'S LIKE
I'M HAVING A
CONVERSATION
WITH HIM...







I WANT TO
TALK WITH
MELON,
BUT AT THE
SAME TIME...
I DON'T
WANT TO BE
ANYWHERE
NEAR HIM! HE
FRIGHTENS
ME. BUT HE
MUST HAVE
FEARS TOO...

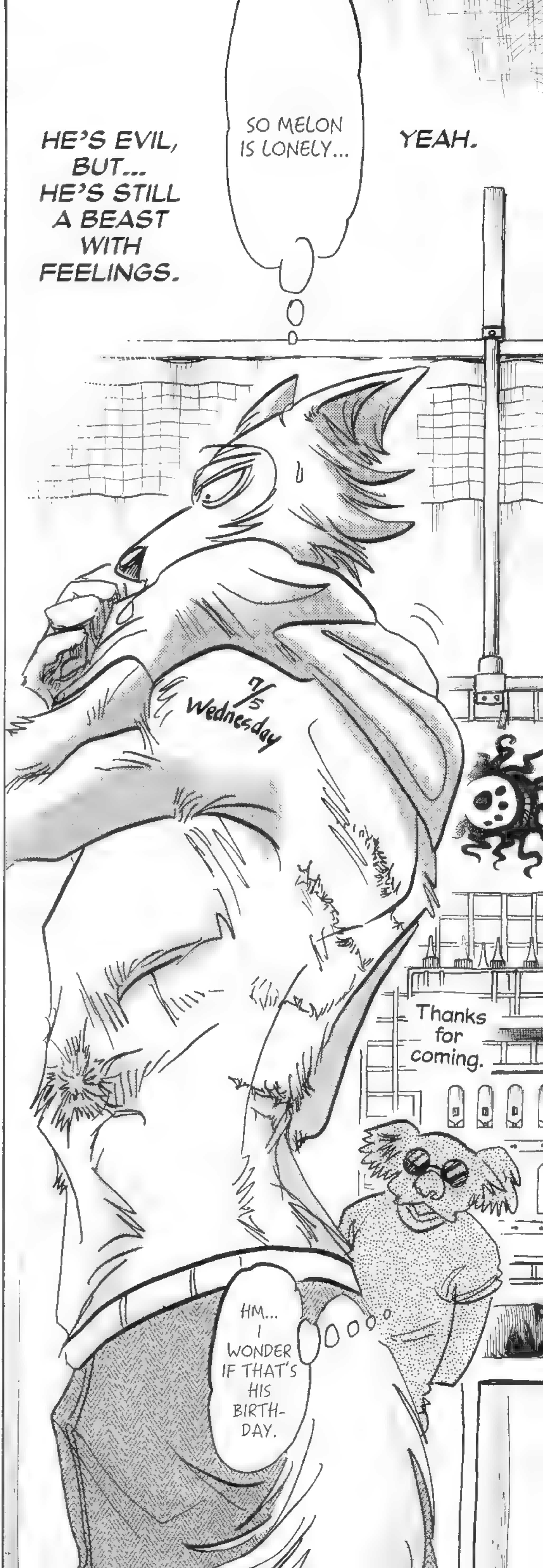


HE OWES
ME AN
EXPLANATION.
I ALMOST DIED
WHEN HE
SHOT ME.



I HAVE TO
PULL MYSELF
TOGETHER!
AND KEEP
INVESTIGATING...
BUT
CAUTIOUSLY.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
AFTER
THIS?



HE'S EVIL,
BUT...
HE'S STILL
A BEAST
WITH
FEELINGS.

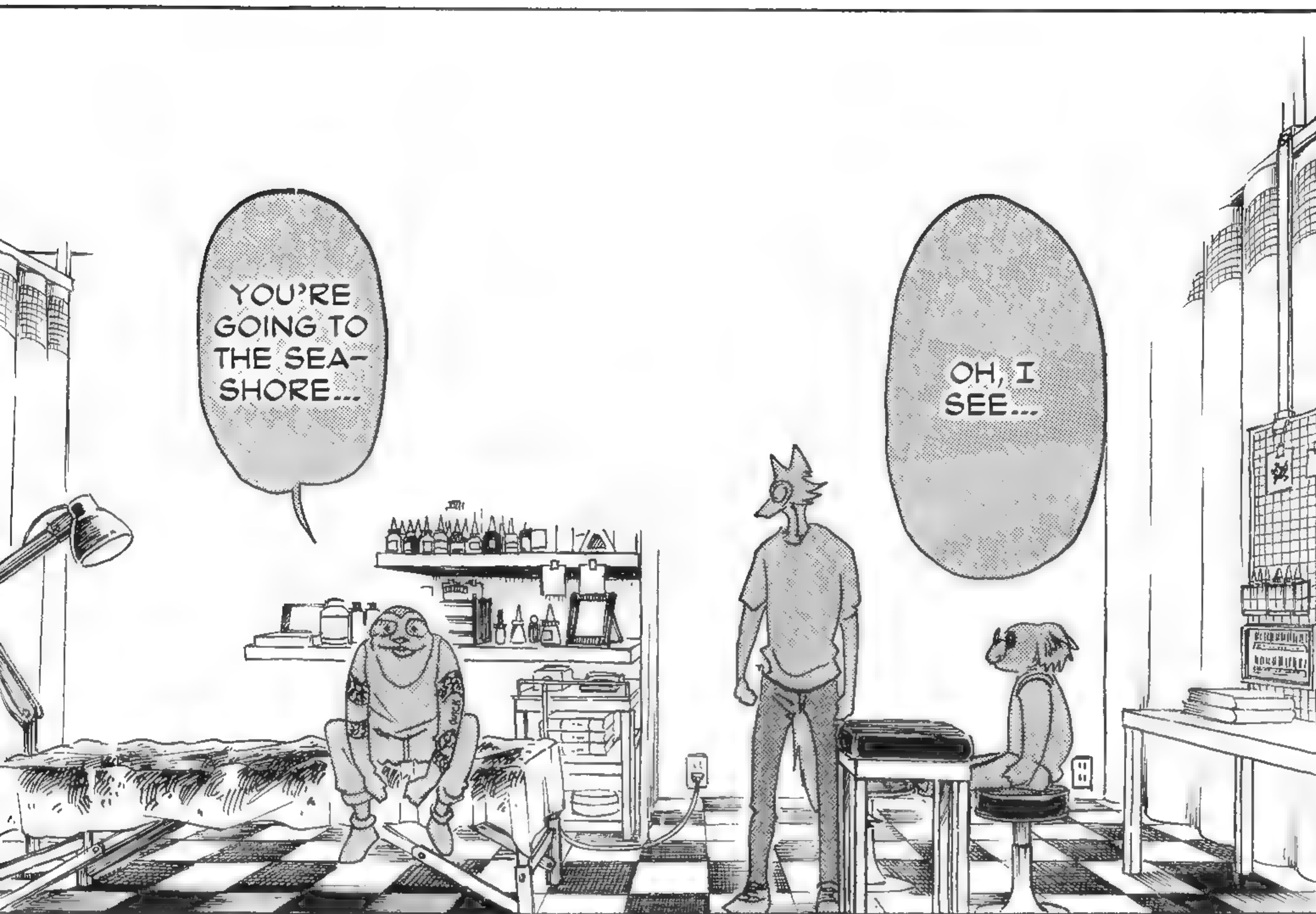
SO MELON
IS LONELY...

YEAH.

7/5
Wednesday

Thanks
for
coming.

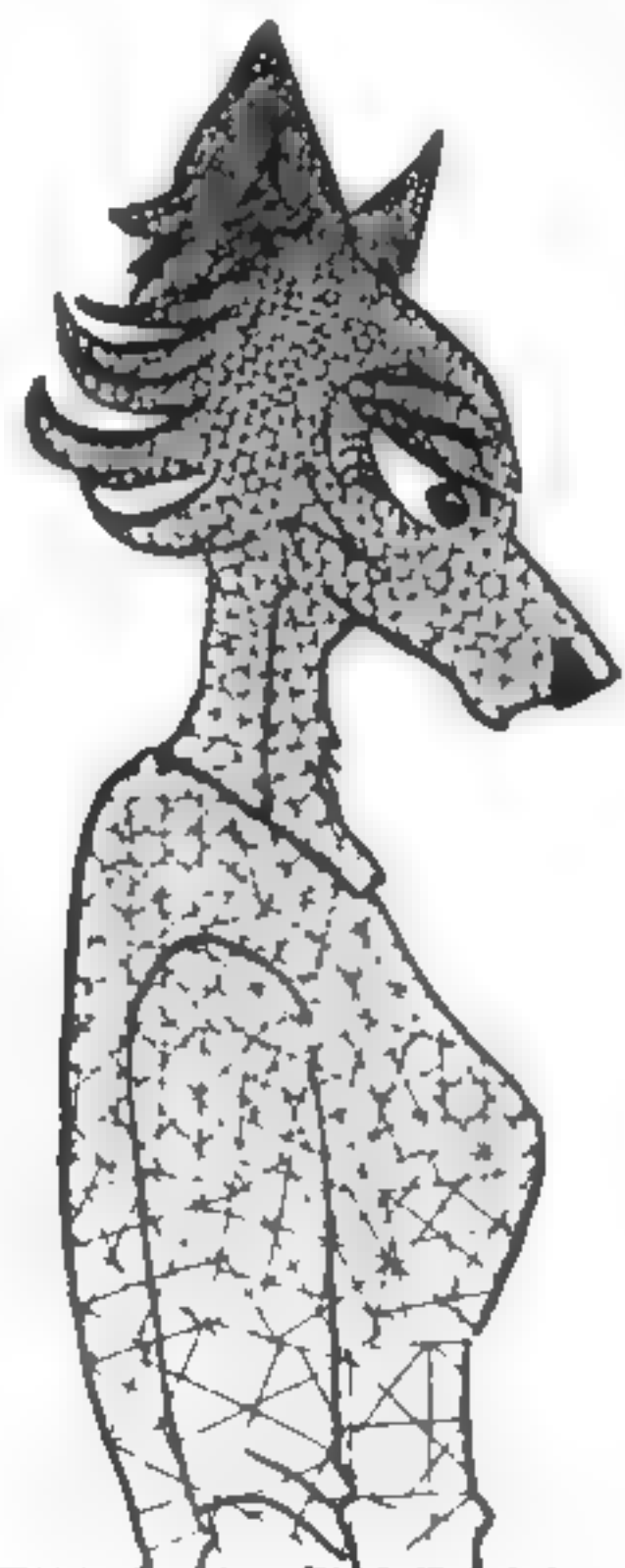
HM...
I
WONDER
IF THAT'S
HIS
BIRTH-
DAY.



KSSH



"...FROM
THE
MOMENT
YOU'RE
BORN."



"THE
LIFE OF
A MIXED-
BLOOD
BEAST IS
FATED
TO BE
COMPLI-
CATED..."

"...THEIR
OFFSPRING
ARE TREATED
AS FOREIGN
BODIES."



"ISN'T
THAT
STRANGE?"

"SOCIETY
WANTS
CARNIVORES
AND HERBI-
VORES TO
GET ALONG,
YET..."

...WHEN HE
GAZES OUT
TO SEA.



I WONDER
WHAT MELON
THINKS
ABOUT...

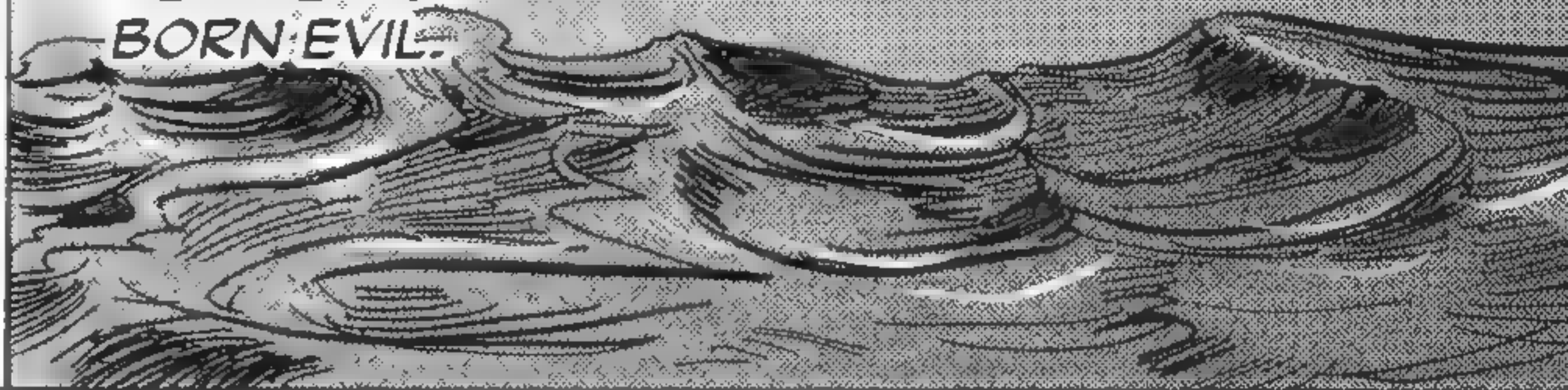
WHAT DO
I THINK
ABOUT
WHEN I
GAZE OUT
AT THE
OCEAN?

UM,
SO...



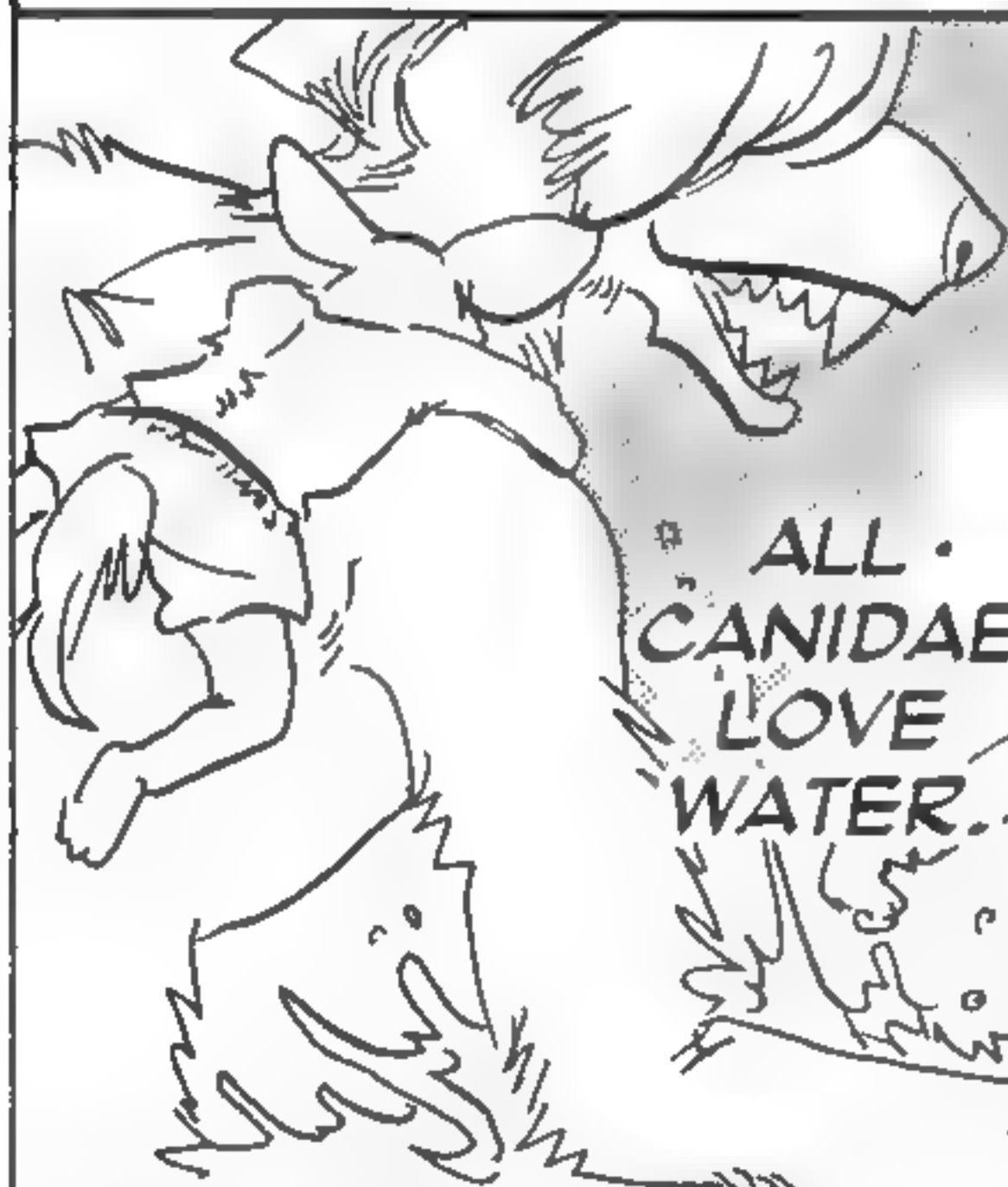
ALL MIXED-
SPECIES
BEASTS
SUFFER.
THEY GO
THROUGH
IDENTITY
CRISES.
THEY'RE NOT
BORN EVIL.

I DON'T
WANT TO
THINK OF
MOM AND
MELON IN
THE SAME
LIGHT...



ALTHOUGH IF
HARU WERE
NEXT TO ME,
I'D BE TOO
FOCUSED
ON HER AND
SHE'D GET
ANNOYED.

HM...
THAT I
WISH HARU
WERE
HERE SO
I COULD
TALK TO
HER.



ALL
CANIDAE
LOVE
WATER.

HRM...
I'VE NEVER
GONE SWIMMING
IN THE OCEAN
WITH MY OLD
ROOMMATES.
THAT WOULD
BE FUN!

HM...

SEVEN
COULD COME
WITH US...
THAT WOULD BE
FUN TOO!

ALSO, I'D LIKE
TO GO INTO THE
OCEAN WITH
SAGWAN SOME-
DAY AND HAVE
HIM SHOW ME
AROUND HIS
HOME.



I GUESS
OVERALL
I'VE BEEN
PRETTY
HAPPY...

HAVE I
BECOME
MORE
OPTIMISTIC?



...
MOST
OF MY
LIFE.

PAFF
PAFF
PAFF

...FORWARD
TO THINGS.

I'M
LOOKING...

WELL,
THIS IS A
SURPRISE...

KSSH



Wag
Wag

...AND
ALL MY
FRIENDS.

THANKS
TO MY
GRAND-
PA,
MOM...

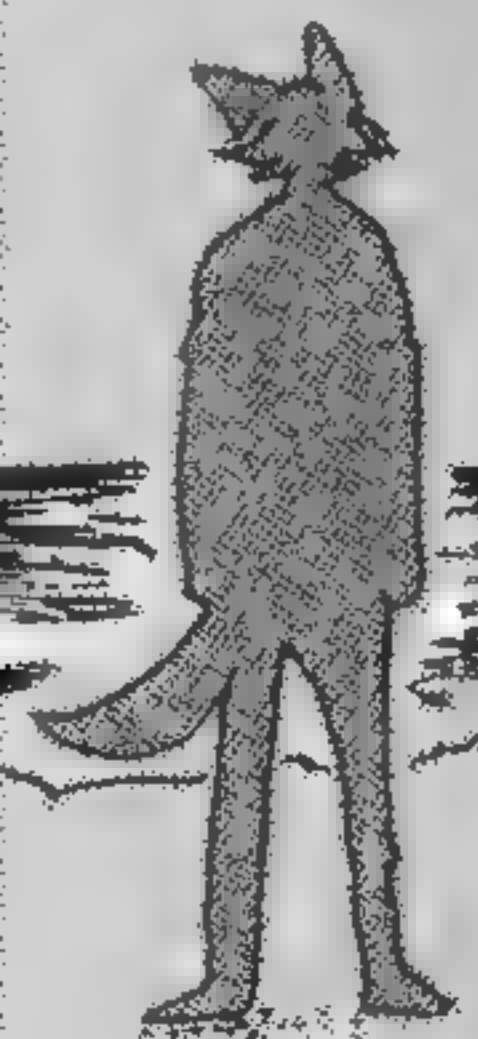
...WISHING
SOMEONE—
ANYONE—
UNDERSTOOD
HIM...

I WONDER
IF MELON IS
GAZING OUT
AT THIS SEA
ALL ALONE...



I DON'T
THINK I CAN
BE THAT
SOMEONE...

...BUT
I'D STILL
LIKE TO
GET TO
KNOW
HIM
BETTER
...

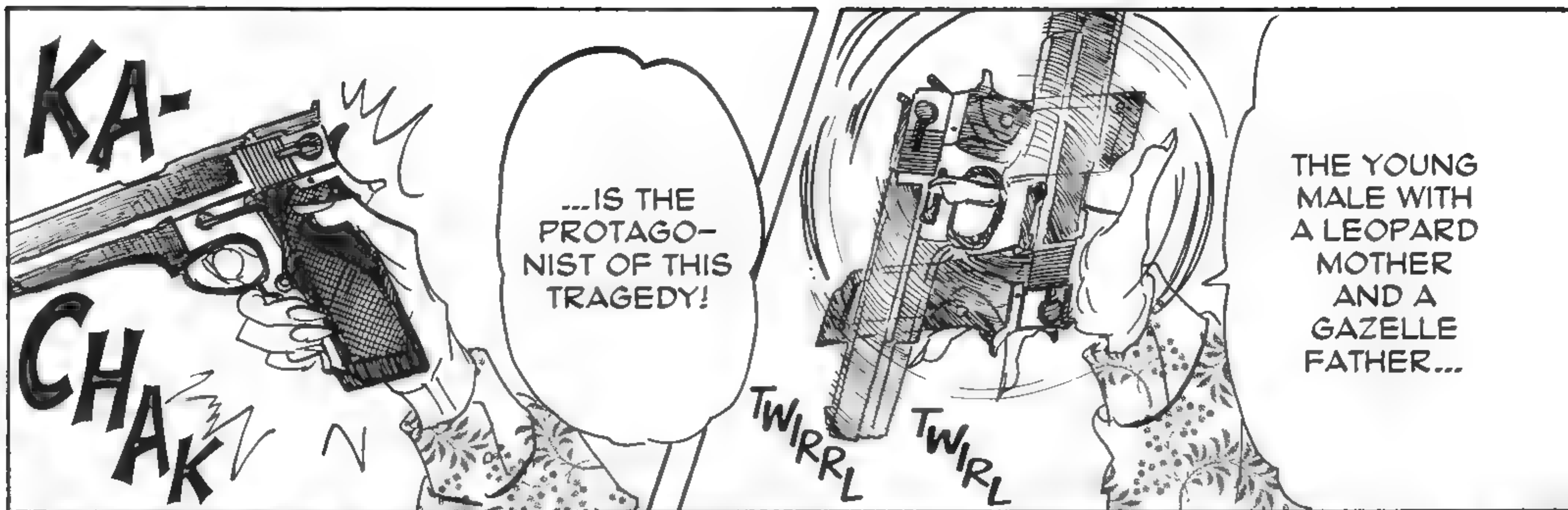






BOOM!
♪
DU DU DU
DUMMM!

THAT'S
MY CUE
FOR MY
GRAND
EN-
TRANCE!





LIKE...
THIS.
I'M A
PRETTY
GOOD
ACTOR,
HUH?

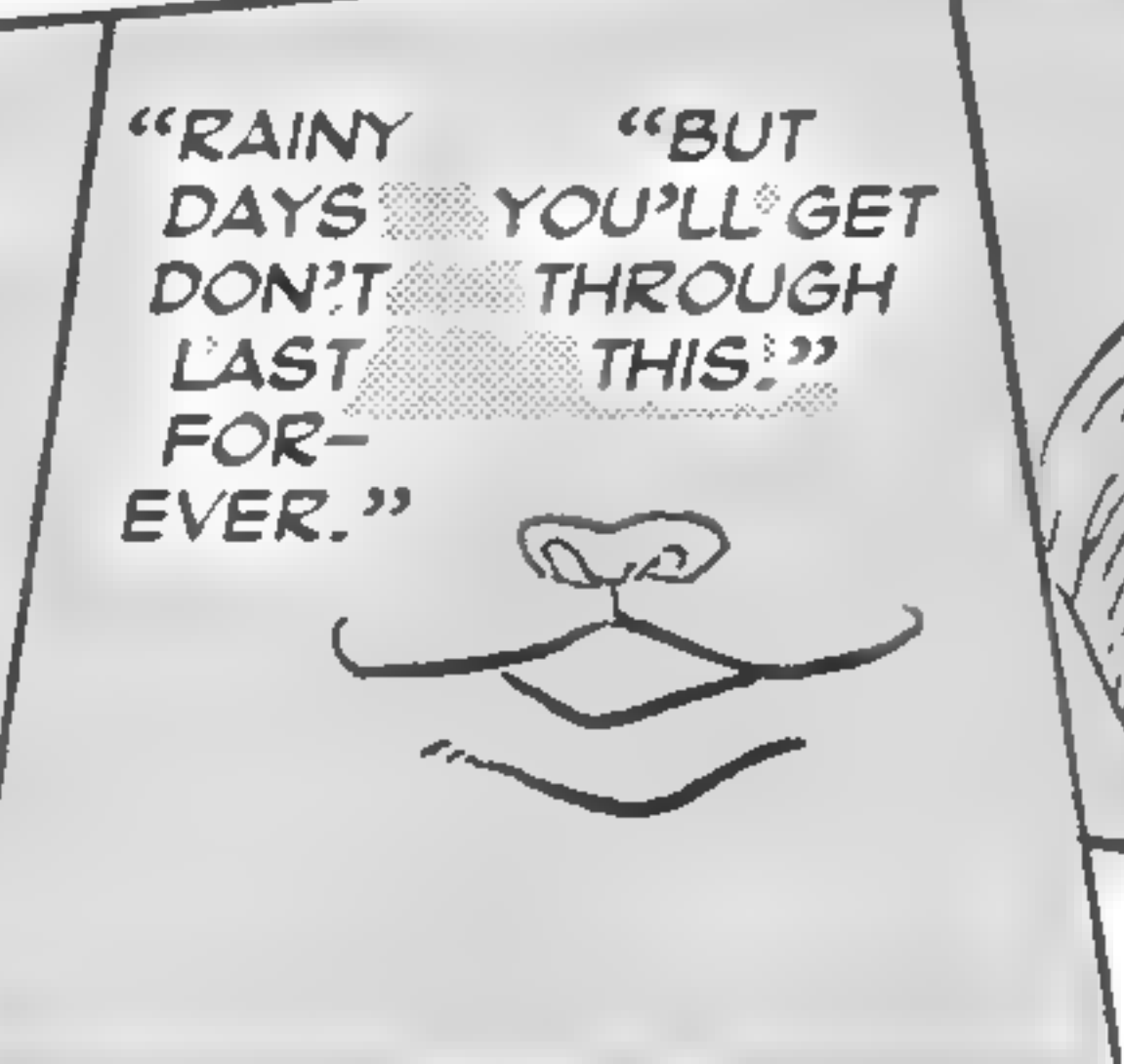


A
TRAP...



"...A
LONELY
MIXED-
SPECIES
BEAST
..."

"YOU'RE..."



"RAINY
DAYS
DON'T
LAST
FOR-
EVER."
"BUT
YOU'LL GET
THROUGH
THIS!"



"YOU'RE
LONELY,
MELON!"



I AM
LONELY!



I FEEL
LIKE IT'S
RAINING
EVERY
DAY.



I AM
LONE-
LY...




**IT
WAS
ALL A
TRAP!**



**I
SPOTTED
YOU ON
MY TAIL A
LONG TIME
AGO.**

**THE
SENSES
OF A
MIXED-
SPECIES
BEAST ARE
SO SHARP
THEY
BORDER
ON THE PATHO-
LOGICAL.**



**I KNEW
YOU WERE
TRACKING
ME.**

**I WAS
SURPRISED
YOU WERE
STILL ALIVE,
THOUGH...**



**HEY,
LEGO-
SHI!**

**WILL
YOU
BE
THAT
ONE
BEAST
WHO
TRULY
GETS
ME?!**

...TOOK
THEM
SERI-
OUSLY.
THE WAY
YOU WERE
GAZING
AT THE
SEA JUST
NOW...



AND
YOU...



I MADE
THAT SLOTH
TATTOO ARTIST
SAY A
COUPLE OF
CORNY LINES.

HE'S...
TERRIFYING.



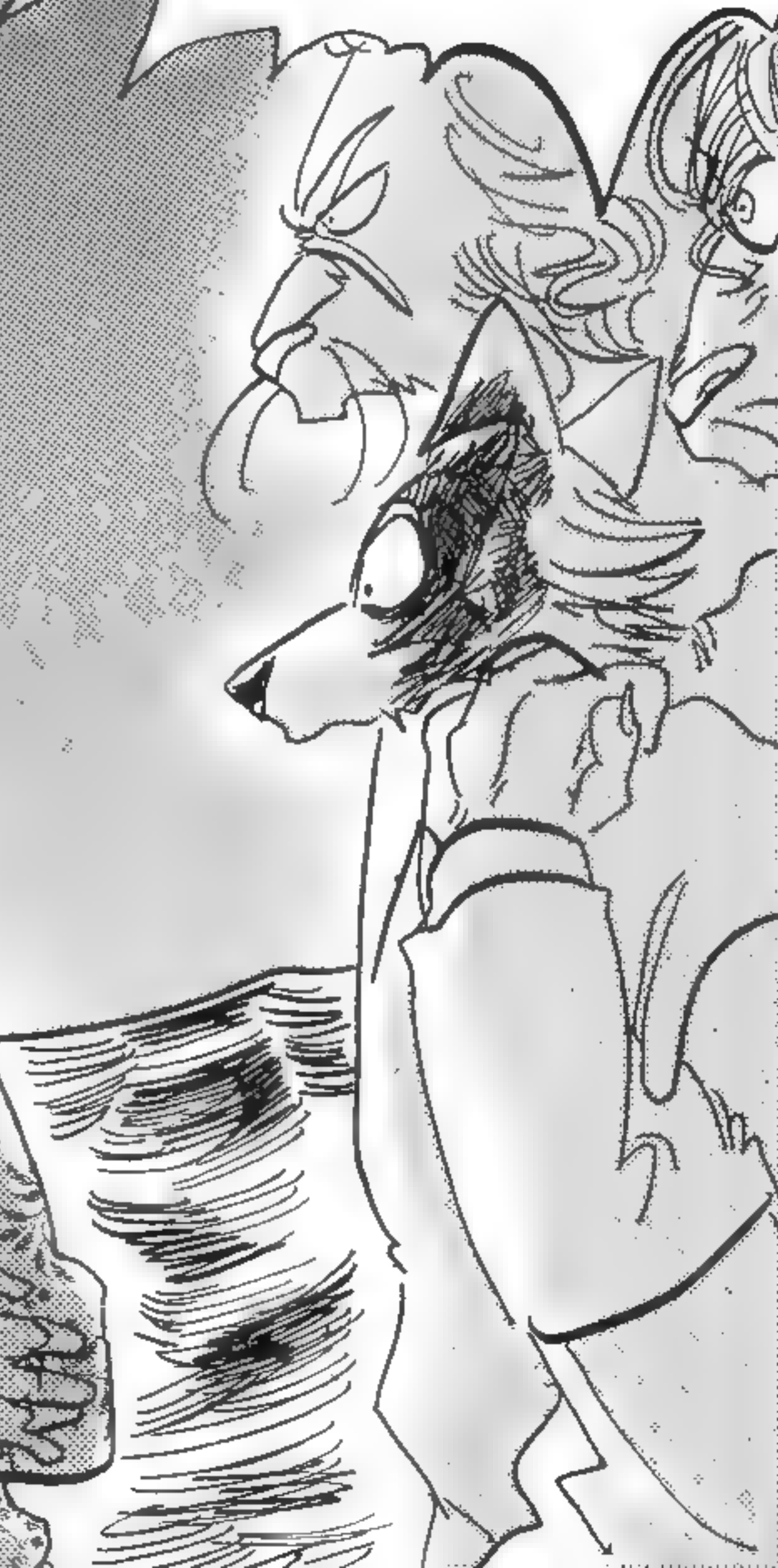
AHA
HA
HA
HA
...

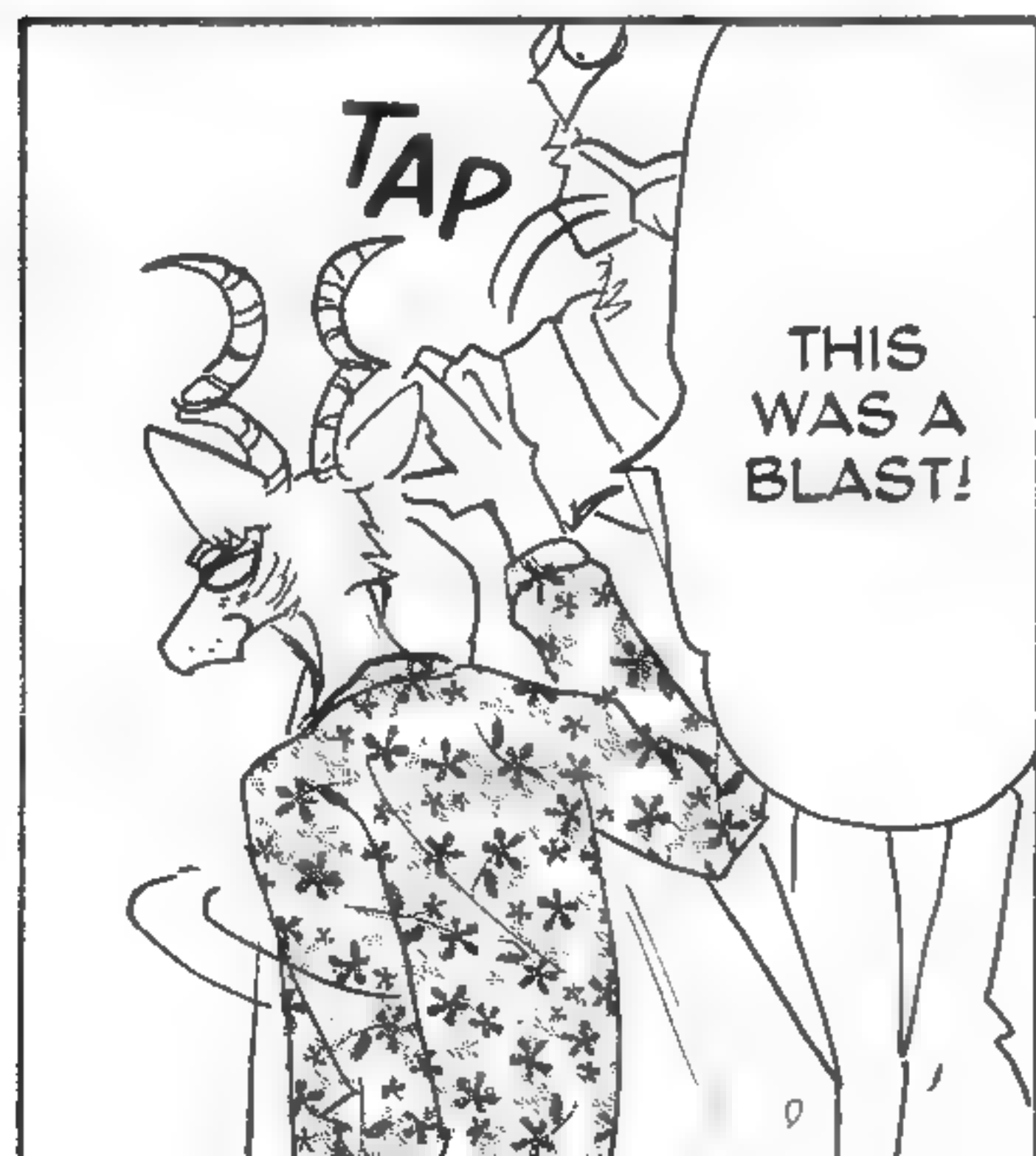
OH...
OH...
I'M
LAUGH-
ING SO
HARD
MY
STOM-
ACH
HURTS.

EVIL...

THAT WAS
CLASSIC!
I WANTED
TO
PRODUCE
A TRAG-
EDY, BUT
COMEDY
SUITS
YOU
BETTER!

AHA
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA!







DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE WITH HIS LIFE THIS TIME.

I HAVE TO REWARD MY TEAM SOMETIMES. YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO EAT HIM.



HE TREATS US LIKE KIDS.

GROWL ...

"YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO EAT HIM"?!

*See Vol. 9.

WE MET LAST WINTER.* I GUESS WE WERE DESTINED TO MEET AGAIN.

YO, WOLF PUP!

I'VE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO A REAL MESS...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE ...

SO MELON HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE SHISHI-GUMI...



AND NOW WE'RE STUCK WORKIN' FOR A BOSS WHO'S A NUTCASE!

COME TO THINK OF IT, THINGS STARTED GOING WRONG FOR US LAST SUMMER—RIGHT AFTER THIS WOLF ATTACKED OUR HEADQUARTERS.



WE CAN'T
EAT A
BAD-LUCK
CHARM.

THIS
WOLF DE-
STROYED
THE
SHISHI-
GUMI!



FELIDAE
ARE
PROUD.

THIS
HAS
NOTH-
ING
TO DO
WITH
LOUIS!

BUT...IF NOT
FOR HIM, WE
WOULDN'T
HAVE MET
LOUIS...

WE'RE
NOT LIKE
CANIDAE...
WE DON'T
EAT ANYTHING
THAT ISN'T
POISONOUS!



BUT WE
DESERVE
RE-
VENGE...



SO...



...WE
FELIDAE
FEAR THE
MOST.

...WE'LL
GET RID
OF YA
THE WAY...



HE
LEFT
AGES
AGO.

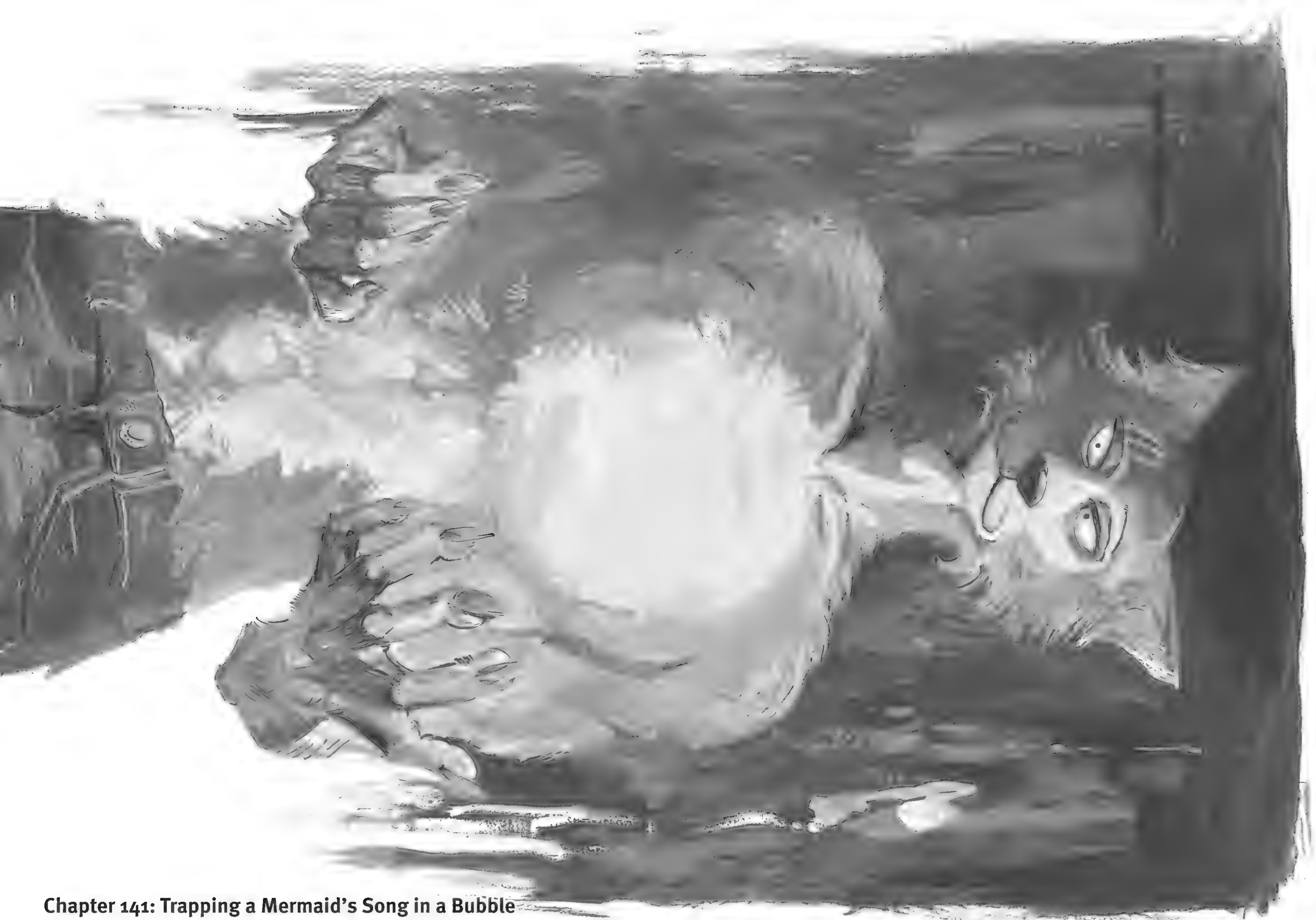


IS THERE
SOMETHING
ON MY
FACE, MR.
WOLF?



I'VE
GOT THE
FEELING
SOME-
ONE'S
LOOKING
AT ME.

Quick



Chapter 141: Trapping a Mermaid's Song in a Bubble

BEASTARS

Vol. 16



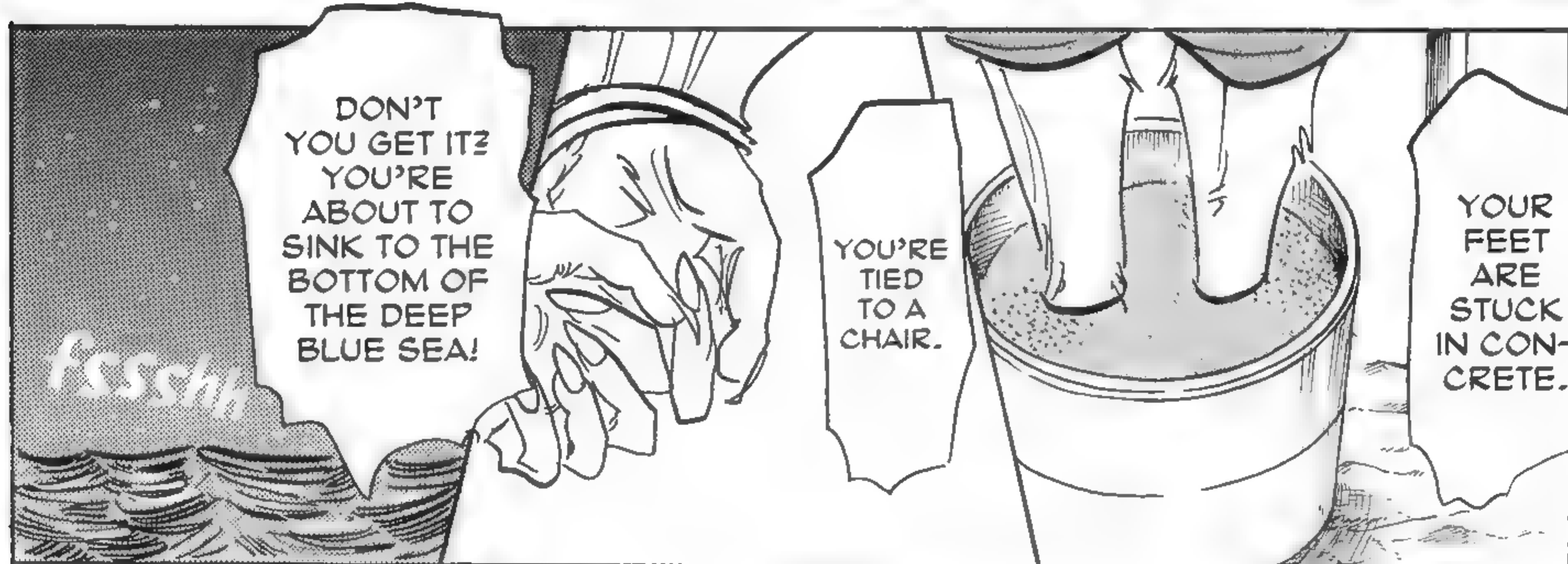


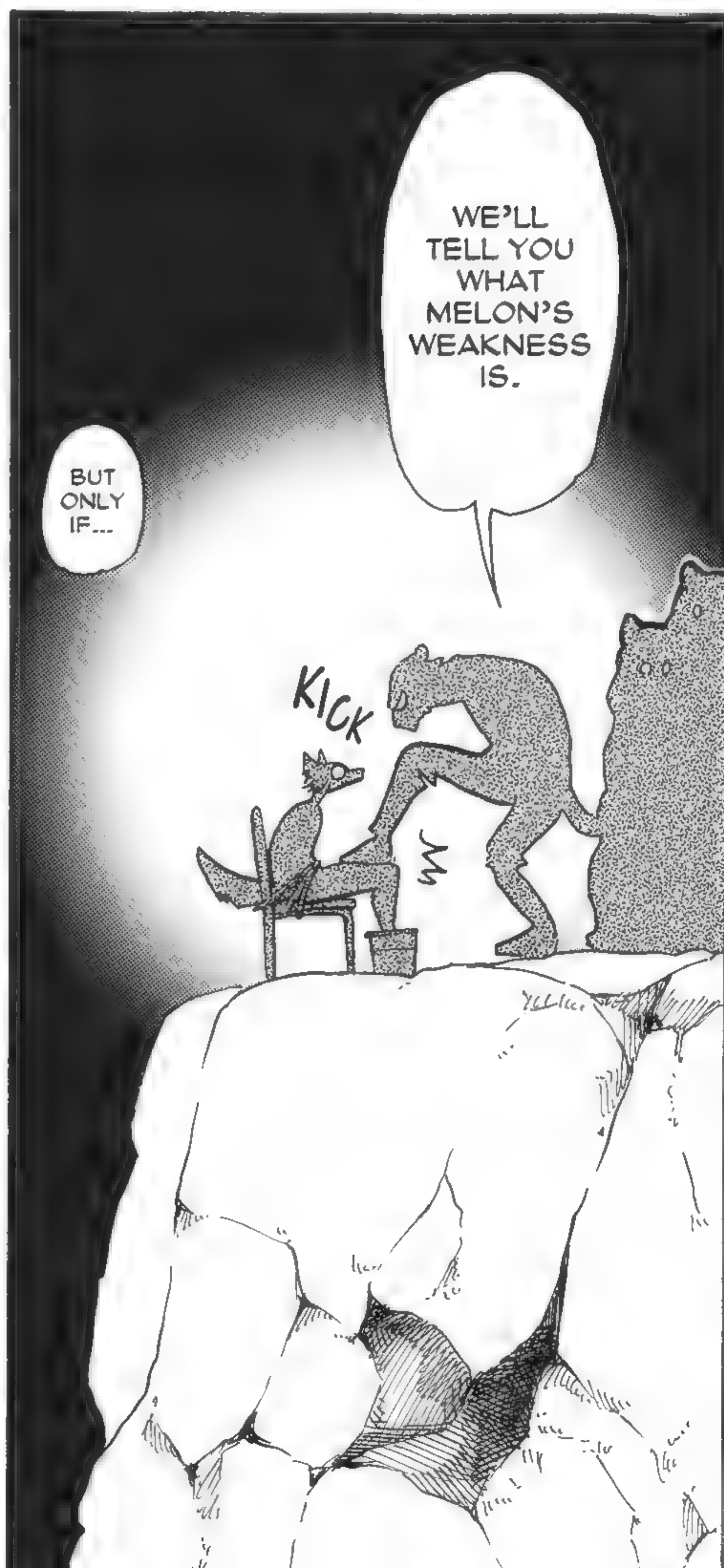
...WHAT
MELON'S
WEAKNESS
IS?

...WILL
YOU
TELL
ME...

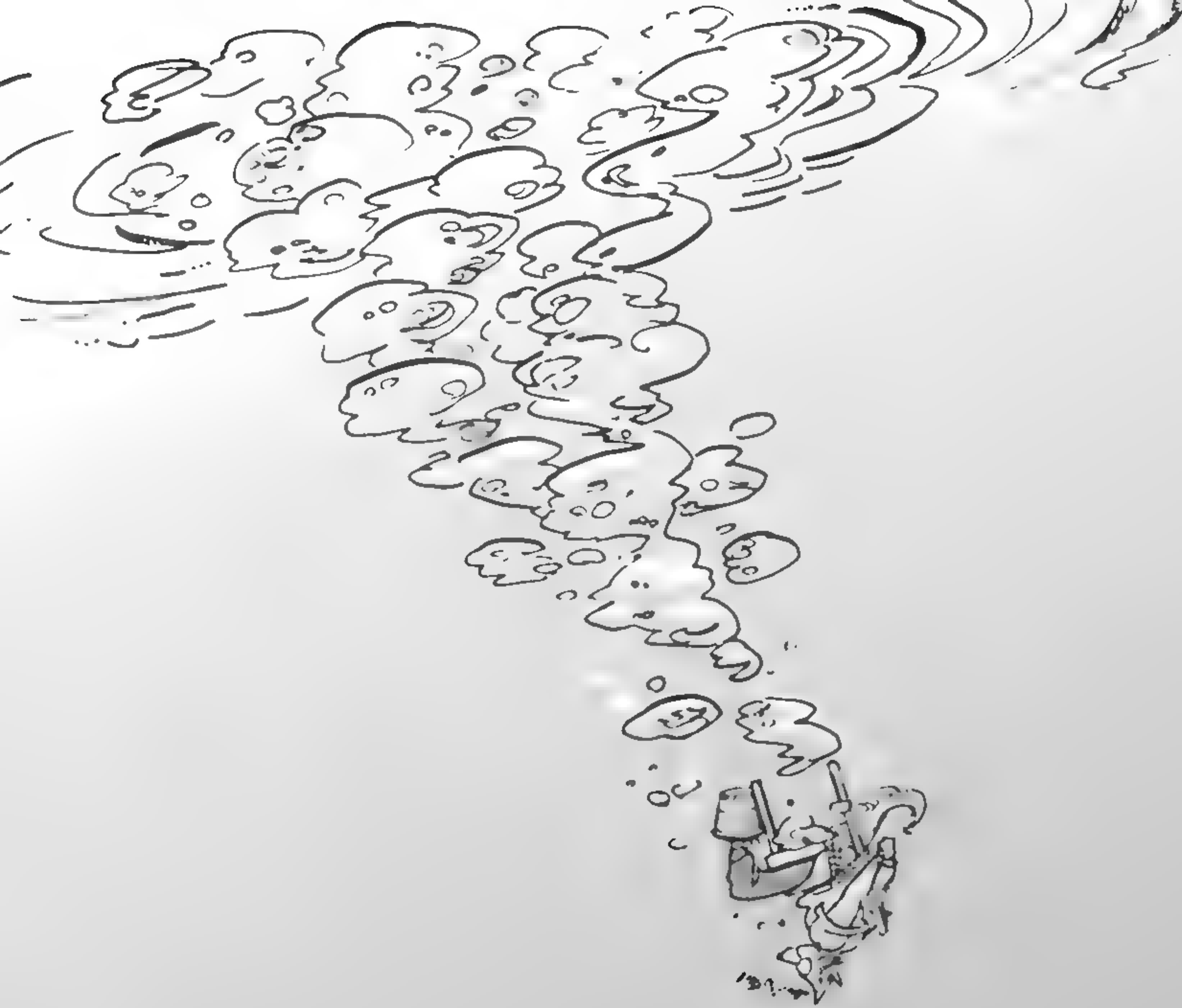
IF I
RETURN
IN HALF
AN HOUR...

WHAT
?!

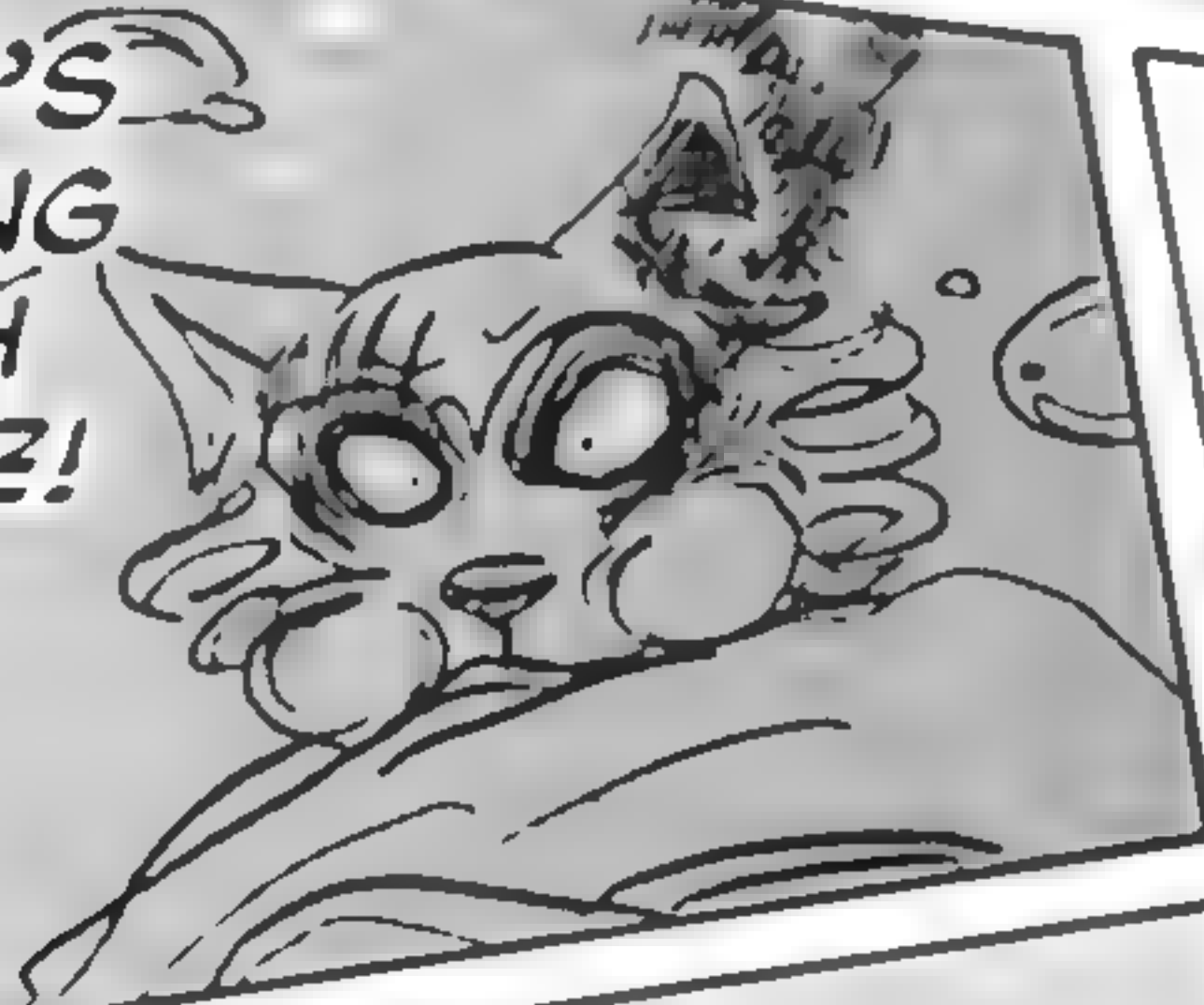








WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THAT?!



THAT'S
HOW I
WANT TO
LIVE MY
LIFE!

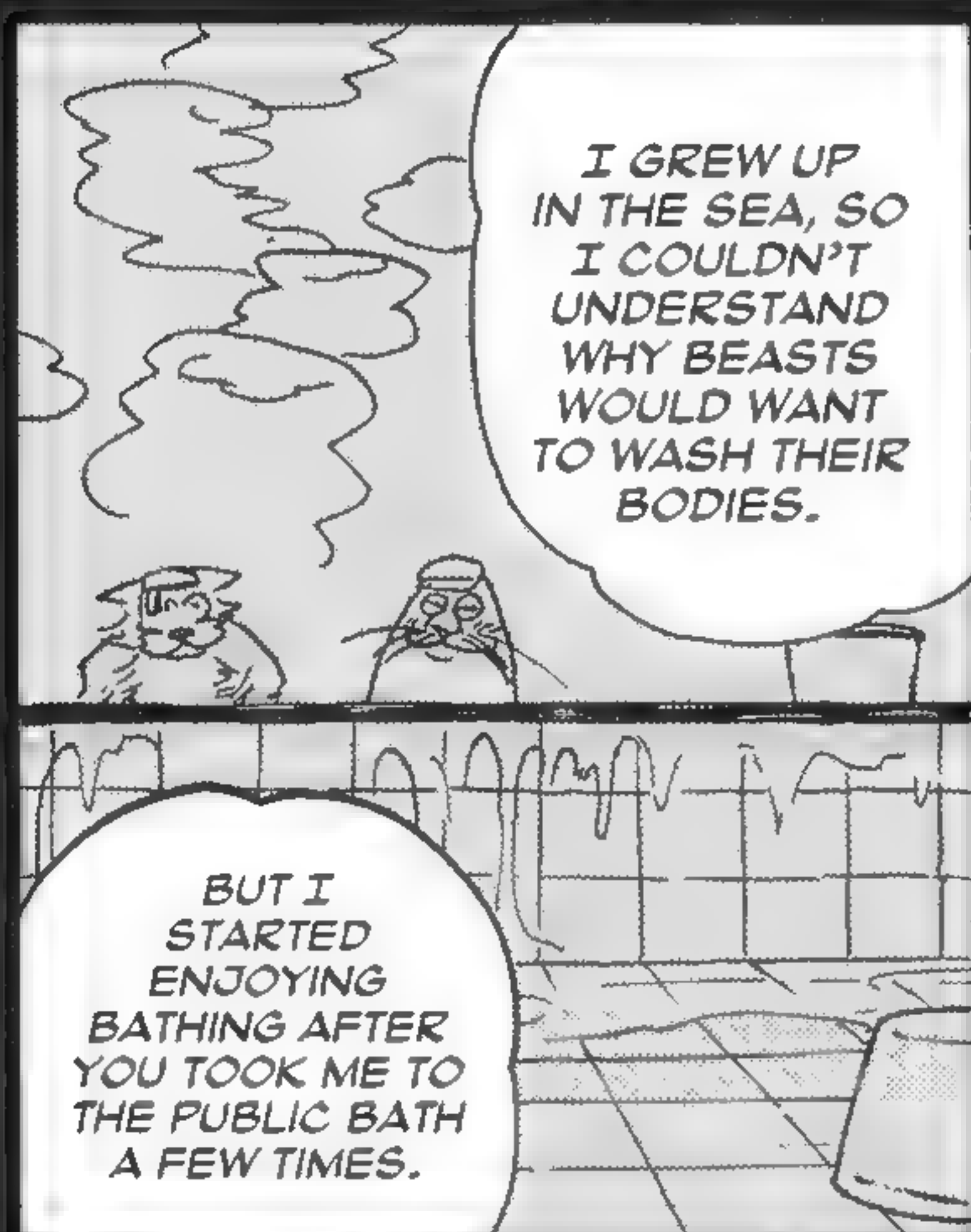
"YOU'RE
LIVING IN A
SENTIMENTAL
FANTASY
WORLD. ♡"





LET'S GO
TO THE
PUBLIC
BATH TO-
GETHER!

HEY,
LEGOSHI...



I GREW UP
IN THE SEA, SO
I COULDN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY BEASTS
WOULD WANT
TO WASH THEIR
BODIES.



BUT I
STARTED
ENJOYING
BATHING AFTER
YOU TOOK ME TO
THE PUBLIC BATH
A FEW TIMES.



YOU LIKE
TAKING BATHS
NOW?

SURE,
SAGWAN.
I WAS JUST
ABOUT TO
HEAD OVER
THERE.

YES.
I DIDN'T
LIKE
THEM AT
FIRST
THOUGH.



!

STMB!

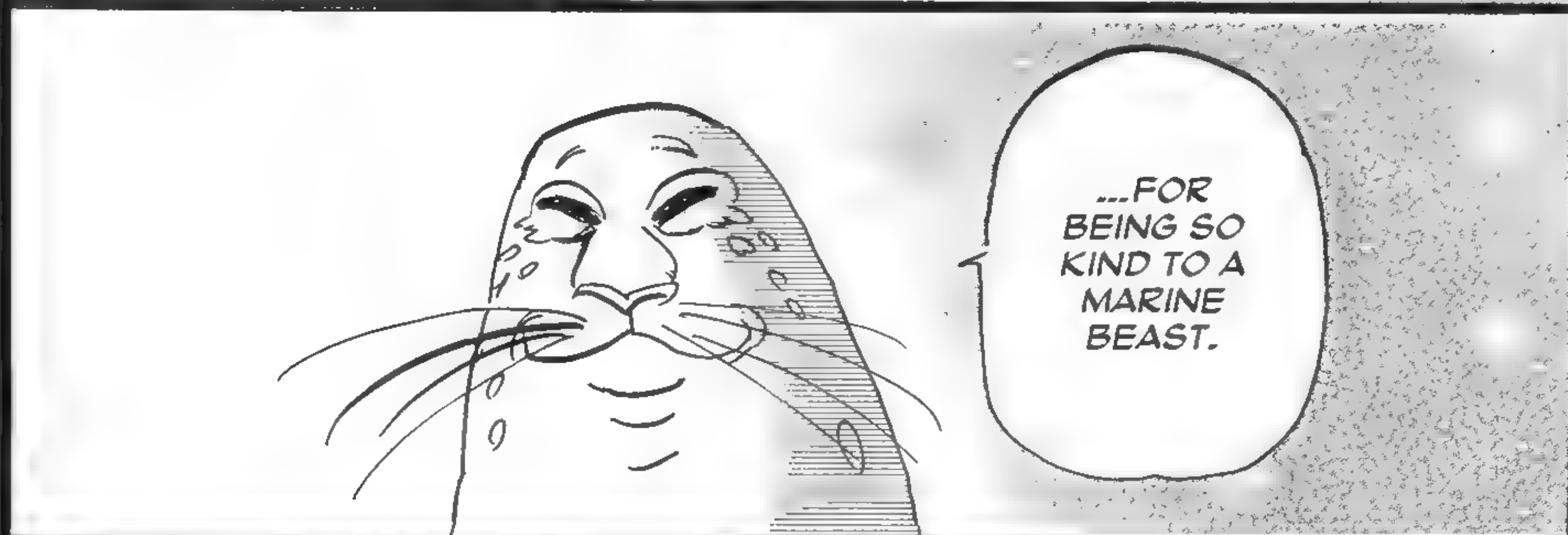
OOPS!



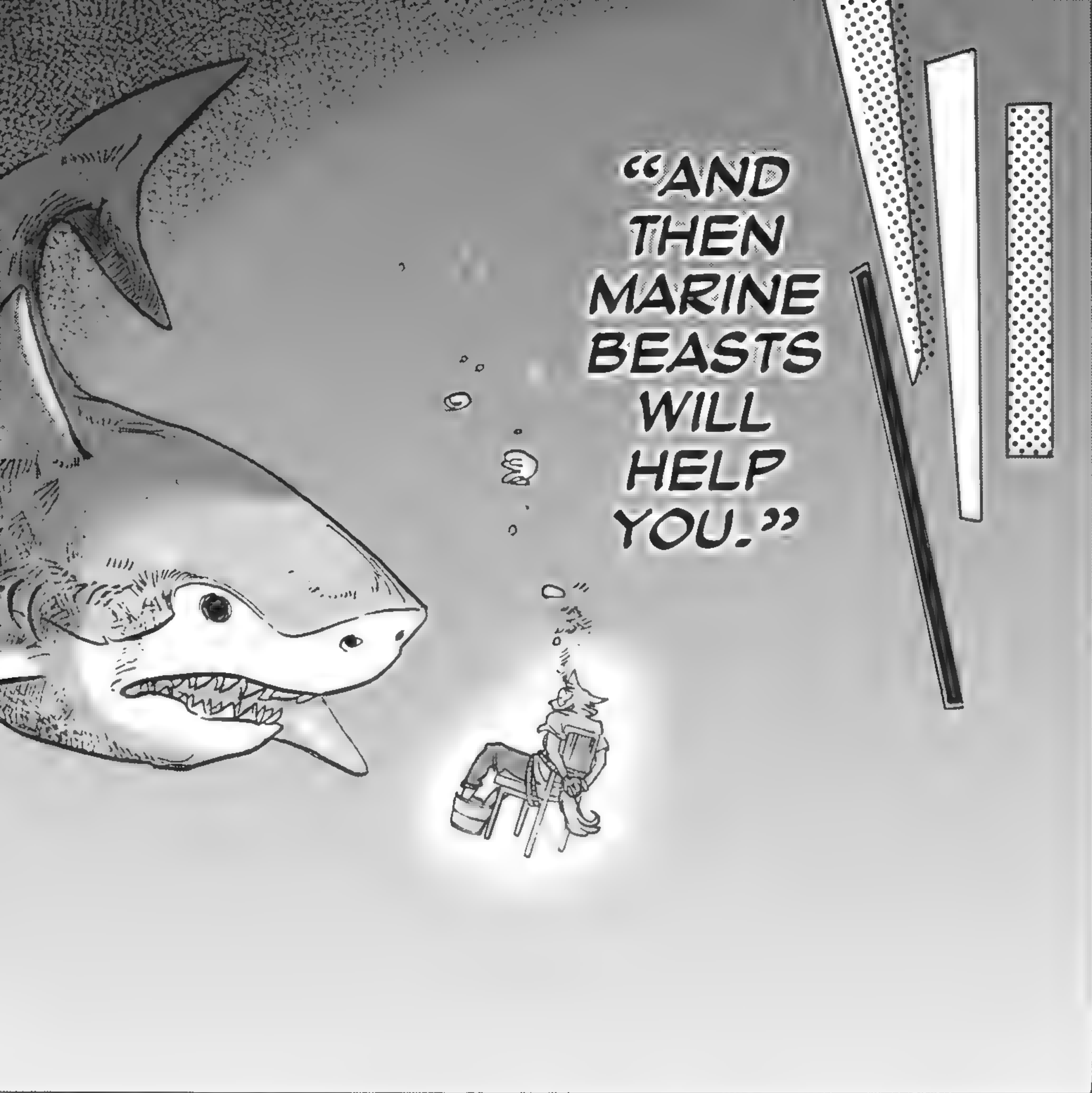
AND
SEAWATER
AND HOT
WATER
ARE COM-
PLETELY
DIFFERENT!
I LOVE
BATHS!

RIGHT.

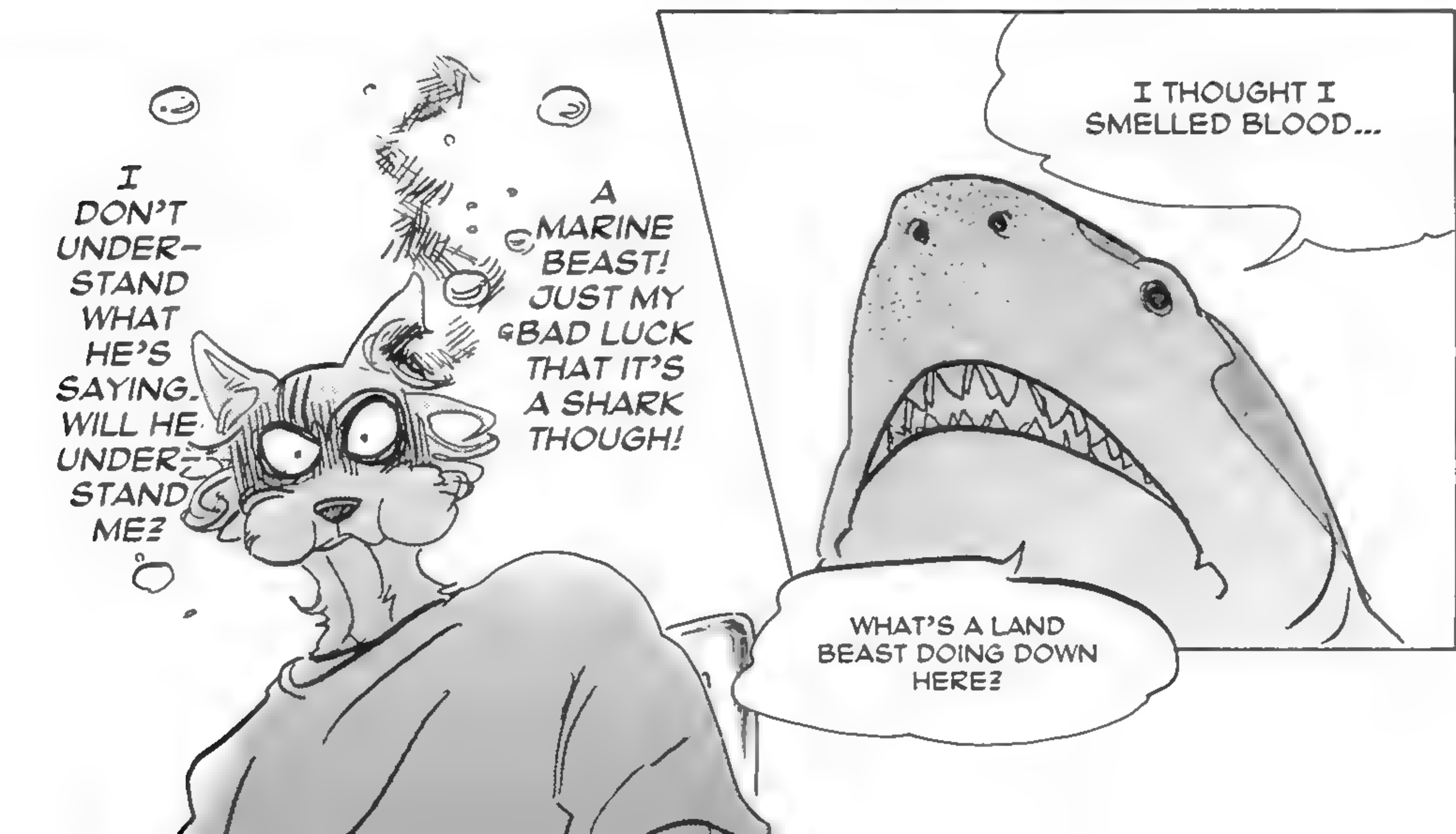
I'M GLAD.
TAKING
BATHS IS
A BIG PART
OF LAND
CULTURE.







**"AND
THEN
MARINE
BEASTS
WILL
HELP
YOU."**



I
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
HE'S
SAYING.
WILL HE
UNDER-
STAND
ME?

A
MARINE
BEAST!
JUST MY
BAD LUCK
THAT IT'S
A SHARK
THOUGH!

I THOUGHT I
SMELLED BLOOD...

WHAT'S A LAND
BEAST DOING DOWN
HERE?



DABABABI
LEGOSHI
PON-
POROBU!

I
HAVE
FAITH
IN
SAG-
WAN!

A POLITE BEAST
WHO'S TAKEN THE
TROUBLE TO
INTRODUCE
HIMSELF...
NOW I'LL EAT
YOU.

YOU'RE
LEGOSHI, A
GRAY WOLF...

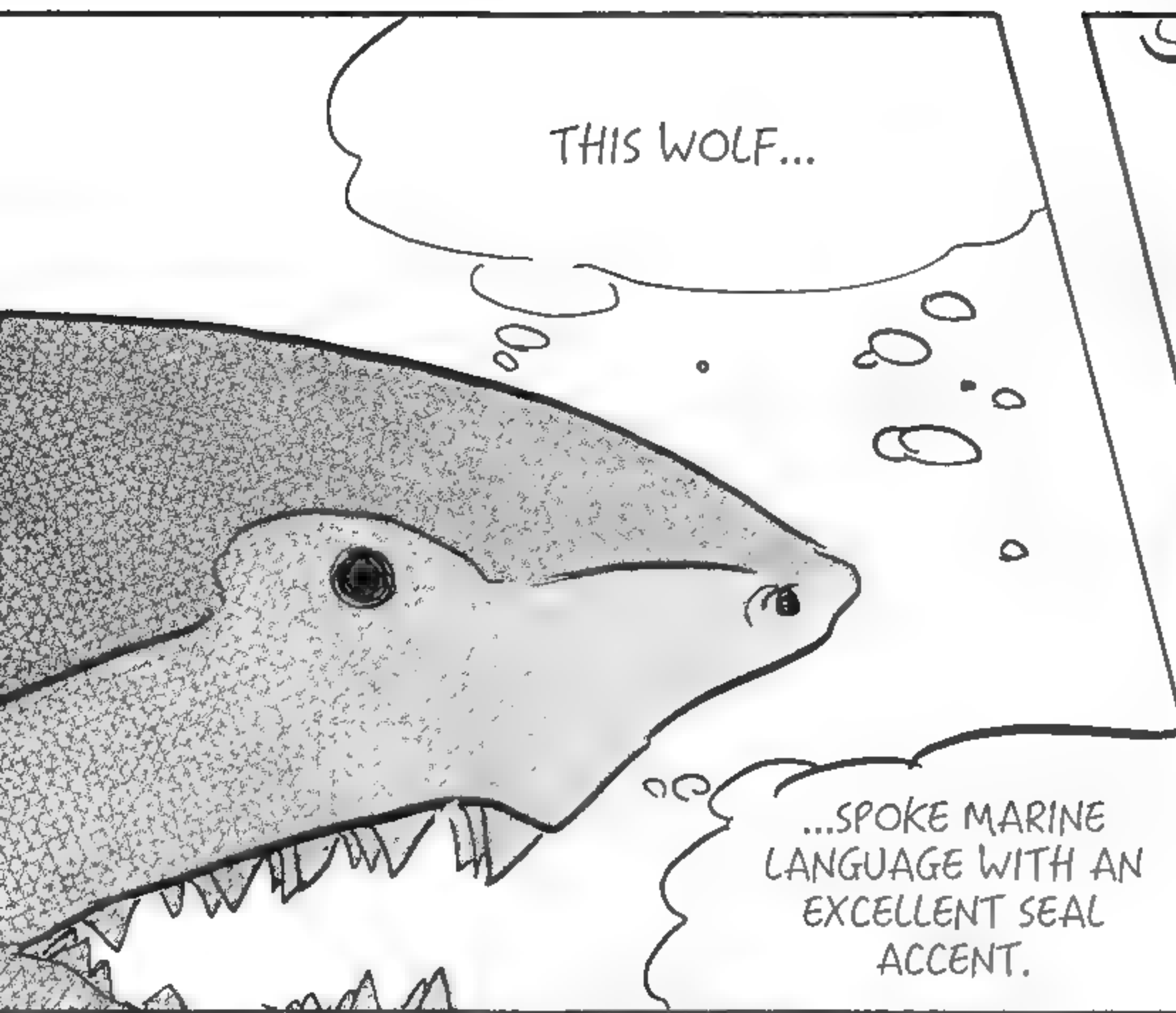
AH

H

ARGH!
IS HE
GOING TO
DEVOUR
ME?!



...



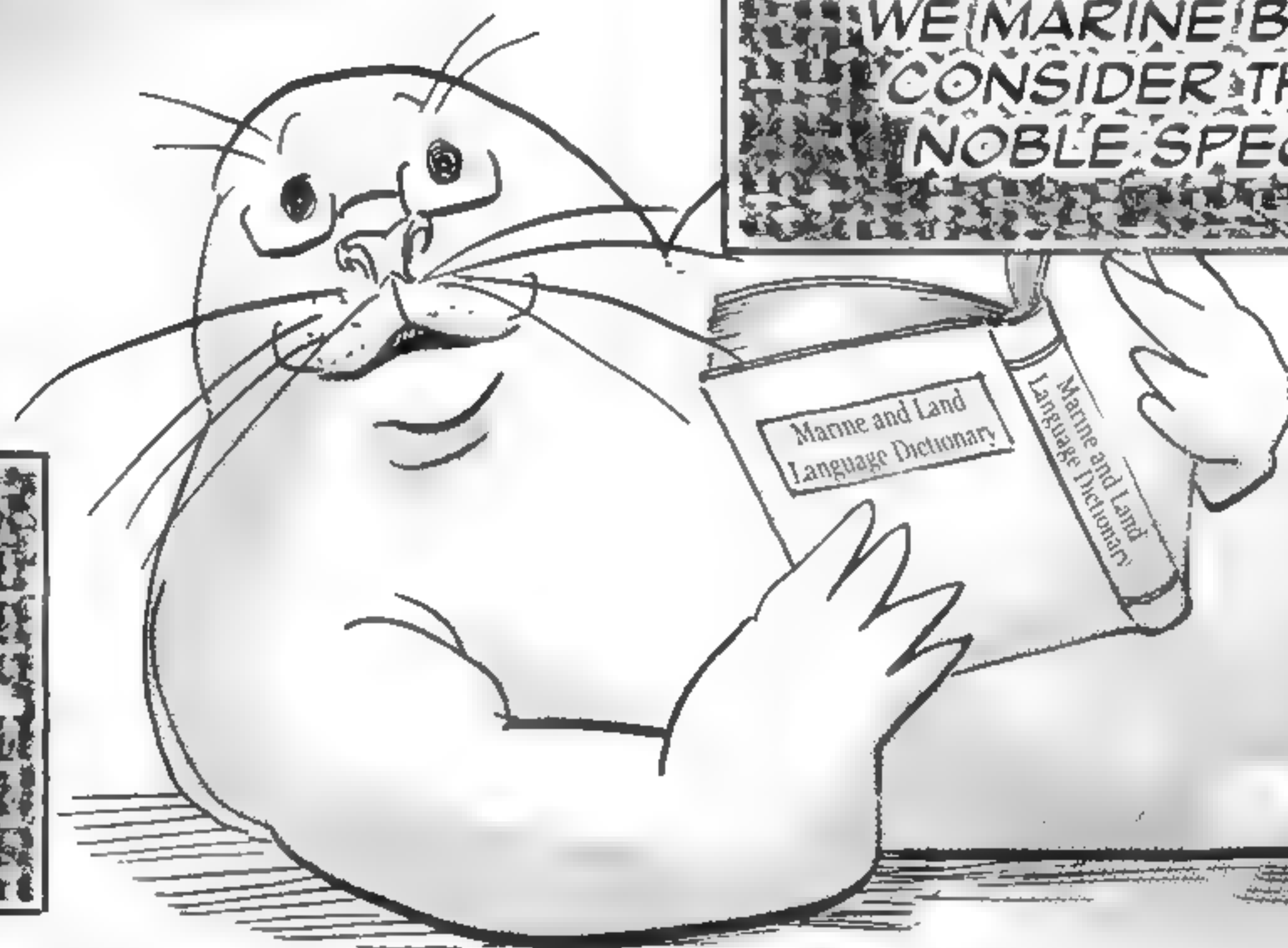
THIS WOLF...

...SPOKE MARINE
LANGUAGE WITH AN
EXCELLENT SEAL
ACCENT.

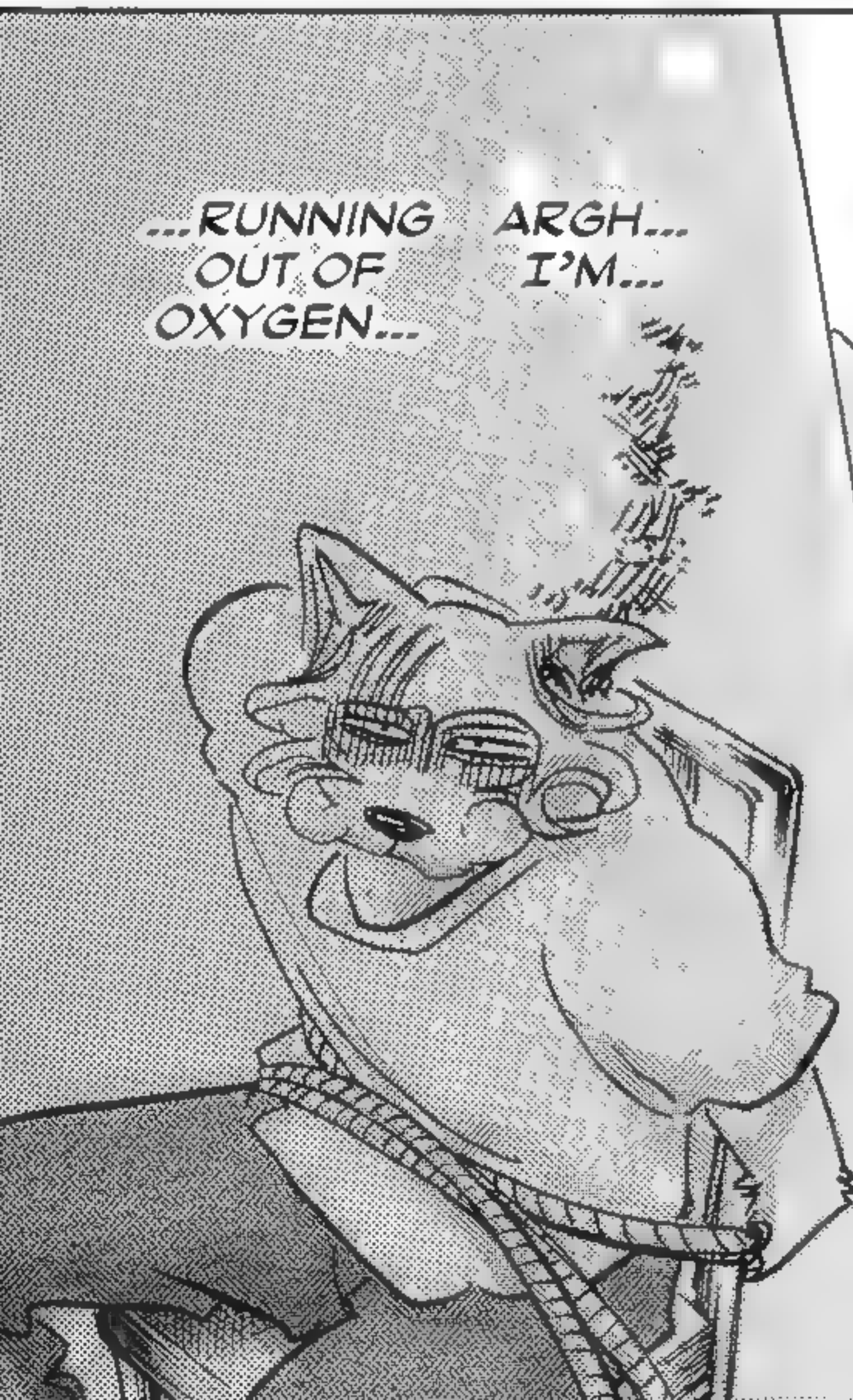


THIS
IS BAD!
MARINE
BEASTS
HAVE A
STRANGE
VIEW OF LIFE
AND DEATH.
I BET THIS
SHARK
JUST SEES
ME AS HIS
AFTERNOON
SNACK!

THEREFORE, BEASTS
WHO SPEAK MARINE
LANGUAGE WITH A SEAL
ACCENT ALSO
DESERVE RESPECT...



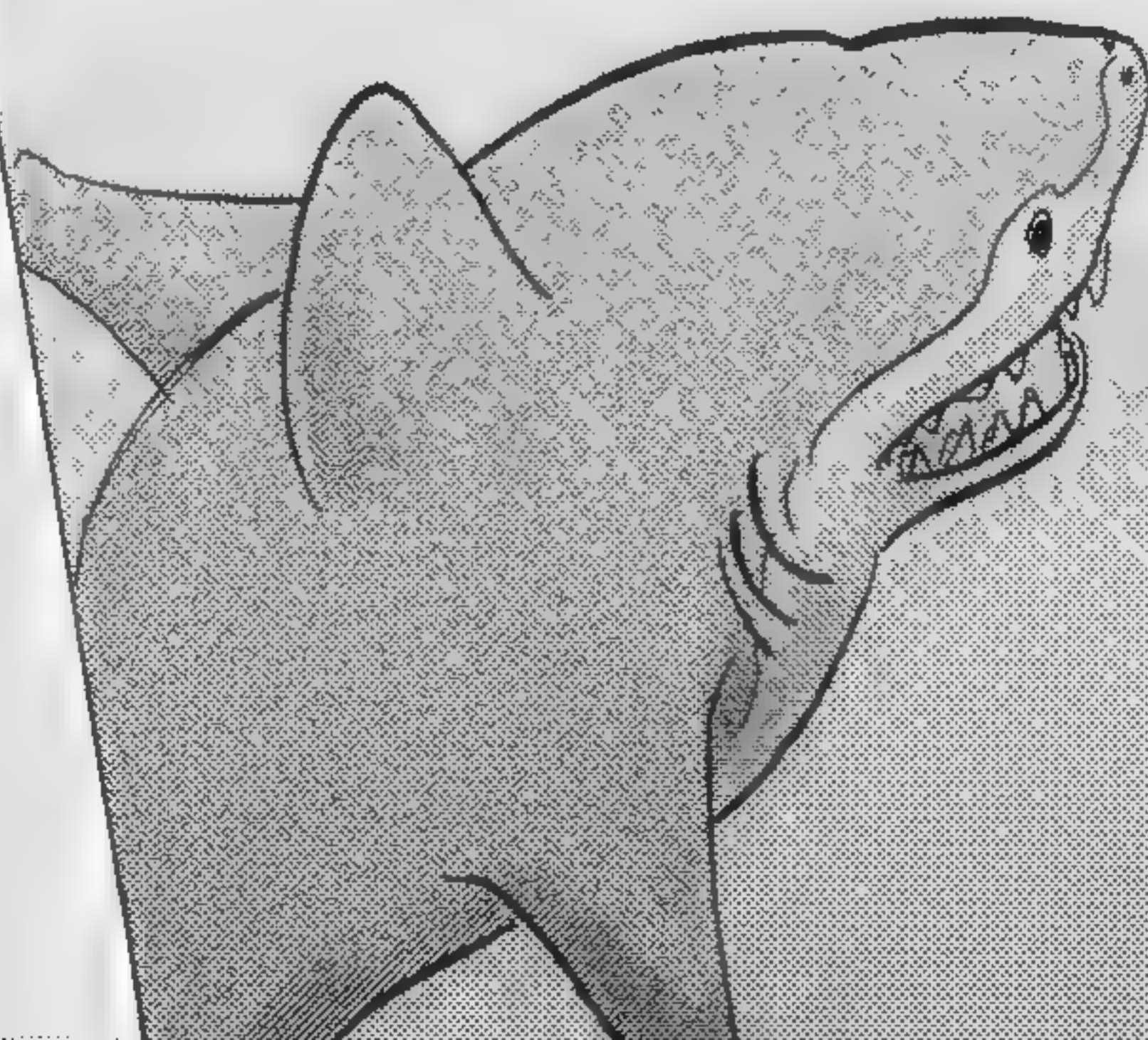
SEALS ARE INTELLIGENT.
WE MARINE BEASTS
CONSIDER THEM A
NOBLE SPECIES.



...RUNNING
OUT OF
OXYGEN...

ARGH...
I'M...

I HEARD YOU, BUT...
YOU APPEAR TO BE SUFFERING,
SINCE YOUR HANDS AND FEET ARE
BOUND. SO I'LL EAT YOU
QUICKLY.





IT WAS,
AND THE
BREEZE
FEELS SO
GOOD
TODAY.

THAT
WAS A
WONDER-
FUL BATH,
LEGOSHI!!



AH, I
SEE...

I apologize.
I didn't know
that.

N-NO!
SEALS
DON'T HAVE
NASOLACRIMAL
DUCTS. SO WE
SHED TEARS
WHEN WE'RE
ON LAND!

SAGWAN...
ARE YOU
CRYING
BECAUSE
YOU
ENJOYED
YOUR BATH
SO
MUCH?!

?!
2!



BUT...

I NEVER CRIED
WHEN I LIVED IN
THE SEA...
DEATH WAS AN
EVERYDAY
OCCURRENCE,
SO I DIDN'T EVEN
CRY WHEN A
FRIEND DIED.

XXXX

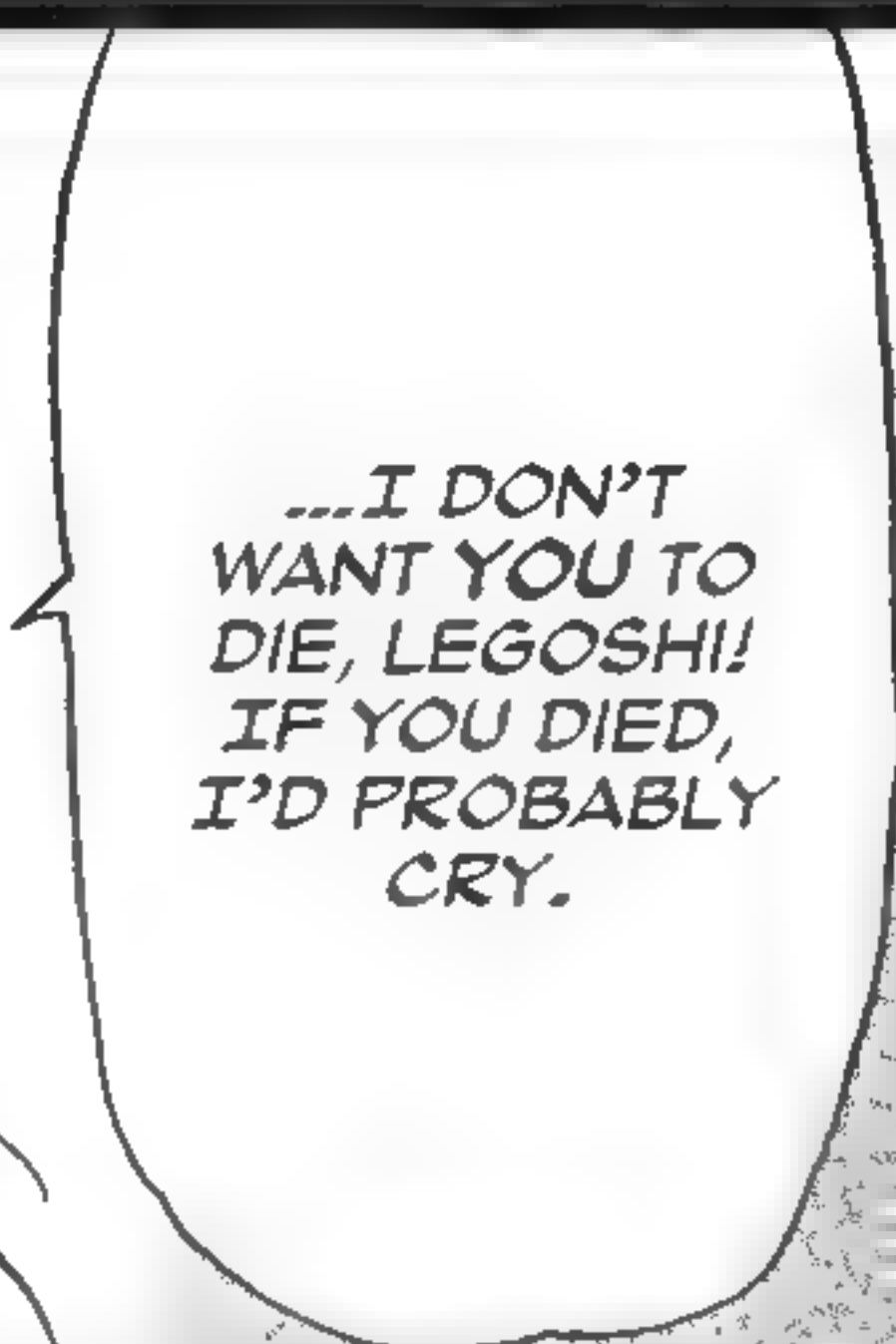


LEGOSHI...
IF YOUR
LIFE IS
EVER IN
DANGER
WHEN
YOU'RE
AT SEA...

SAG-
WAN...



I
WOULD
SHED
TEARS
OF
EMO-
TION.



...I DON'T
WANT YOU TO
DIE, LEGOSHI!
IF YOU DIED,
I'D PROBABLY
CRY.



THOSE
ARE
SECRET
MAGIC
WORDS—
BETWEEN
YOU AND
ME!

...AS A
LAST
RESORT!

...YELL,
“AGAGA
PAPUPU
DABA GOMA
BIIDA”...



SAGWAN
...

AGAGA
...



COME
ON!
PLEASE!
TELL ME!

I'M NOT
TELLING.



THAT'S
MARINE
LAN-
GUAGE.
WHAT
DOES IT
MEAN?

AGAGA
PAPUPU
DABA
GOMA
BIIDA...



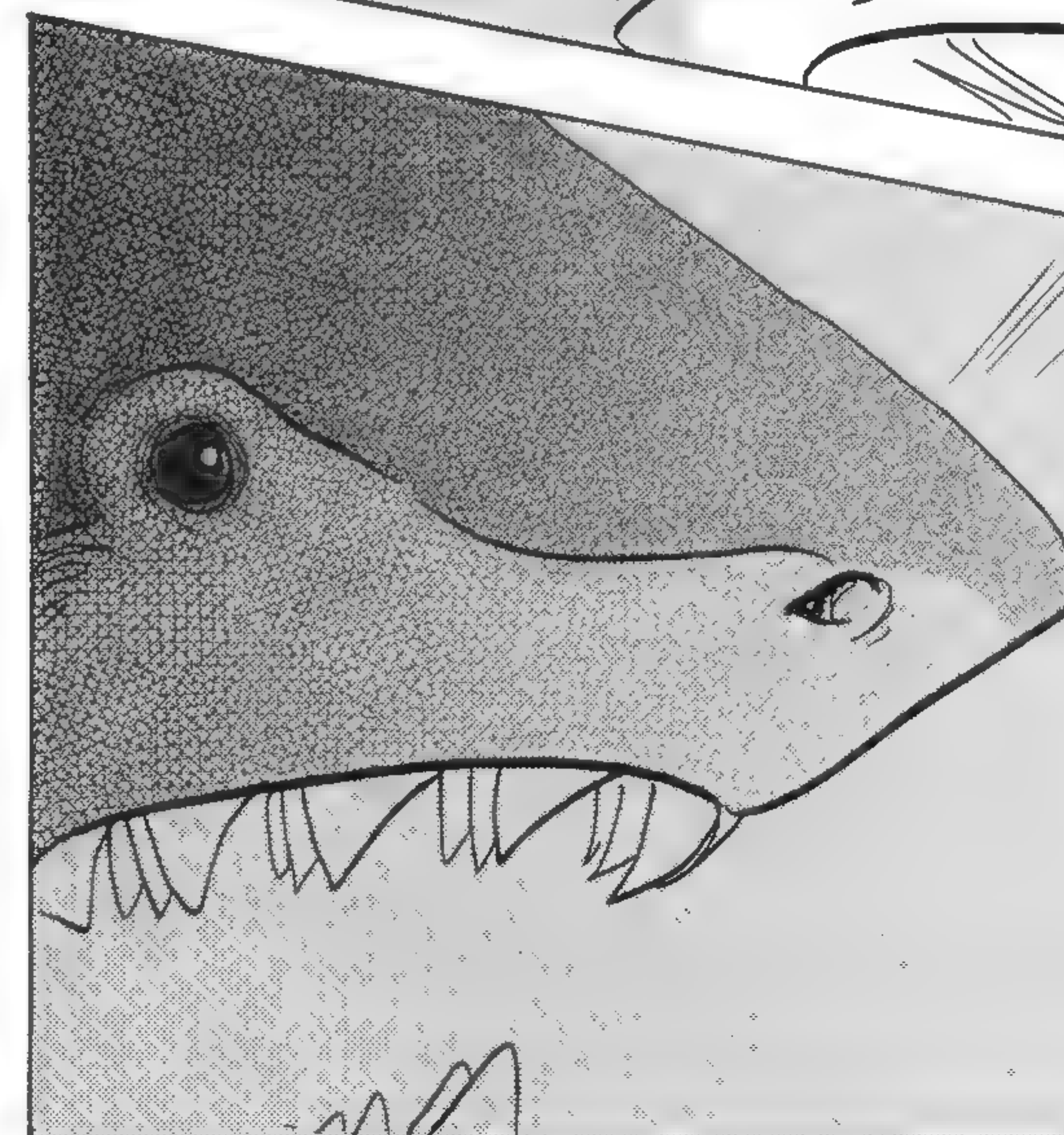


**AGAGA
PAPU-
PU DABA
GOMA
BIIDA!**

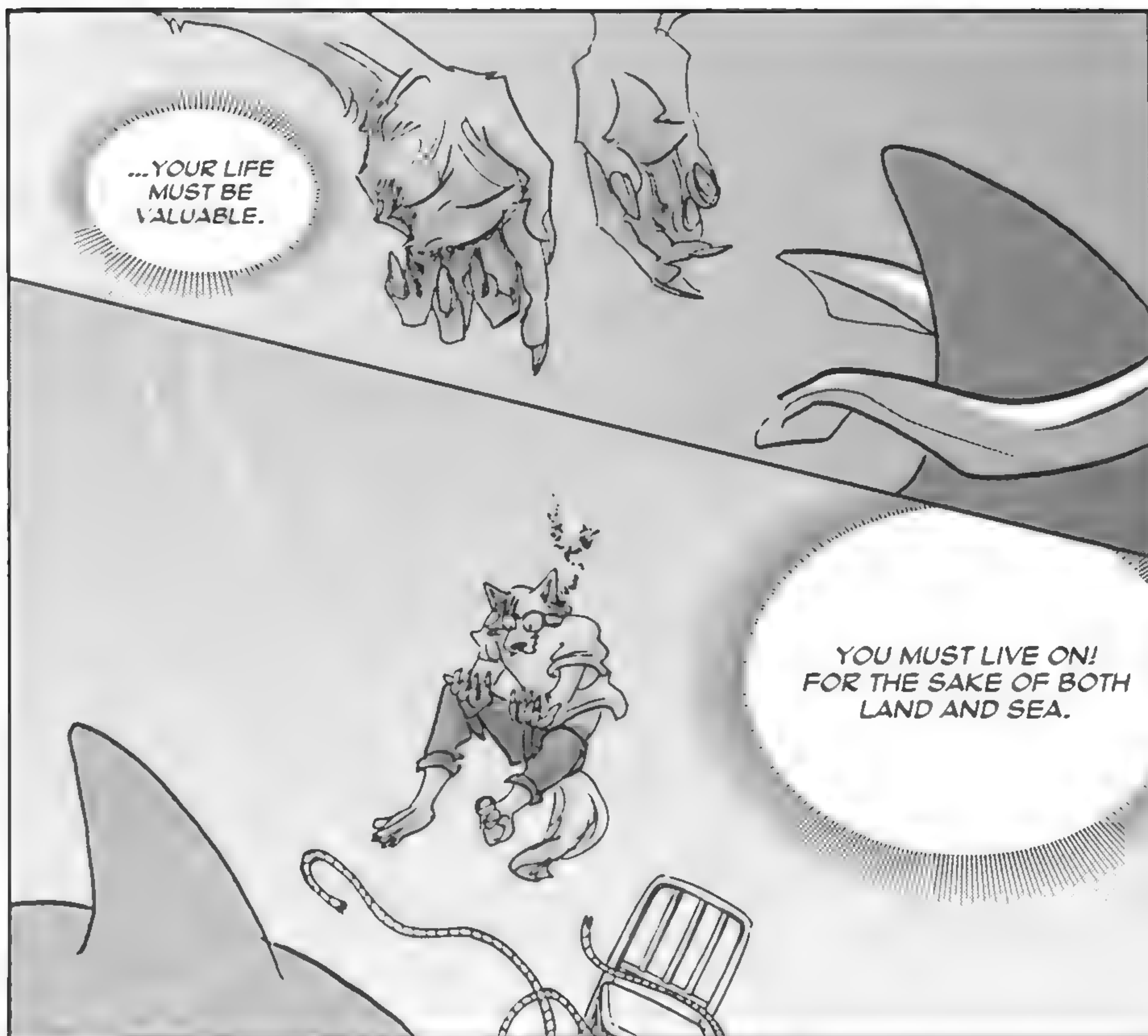
(I'M FRIENDS WITH
A SPOTTED SEAL!)



THAT
MEANS...



WHAT?!



...YOUR LIFE
MUST BE
VALUABLE.

YOU MUST LIVE ON!
FOR THE SAKE OF BOTH
LAND AND SEA.



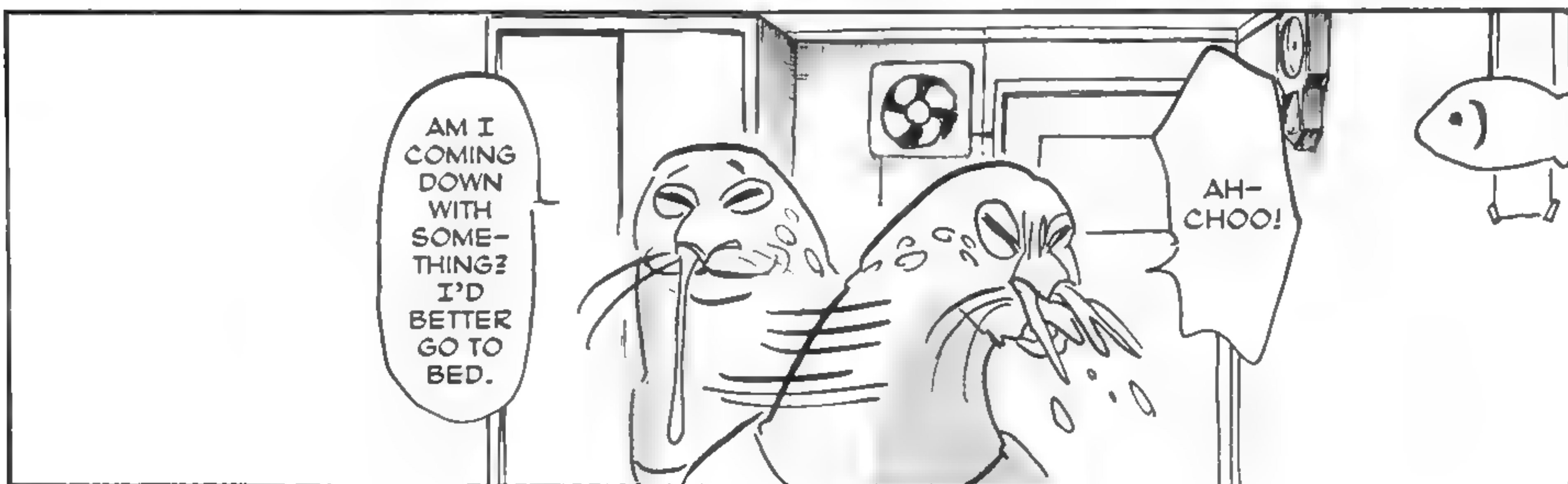
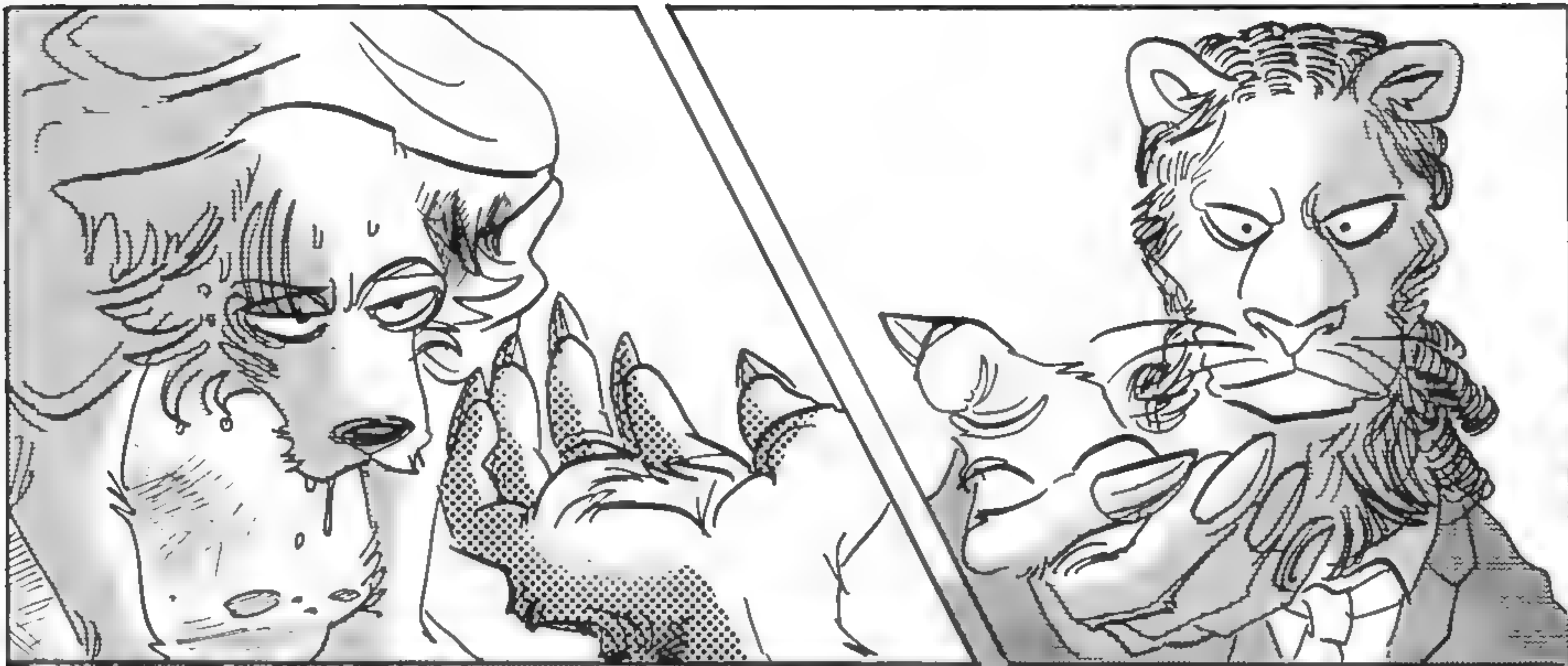
HUF...

HUF...

YOU'RE A
SPECIAL WOLF...
YOU SHOULD HAVE
TOLD ME SOONER.

SPLASH





Meanwhile...

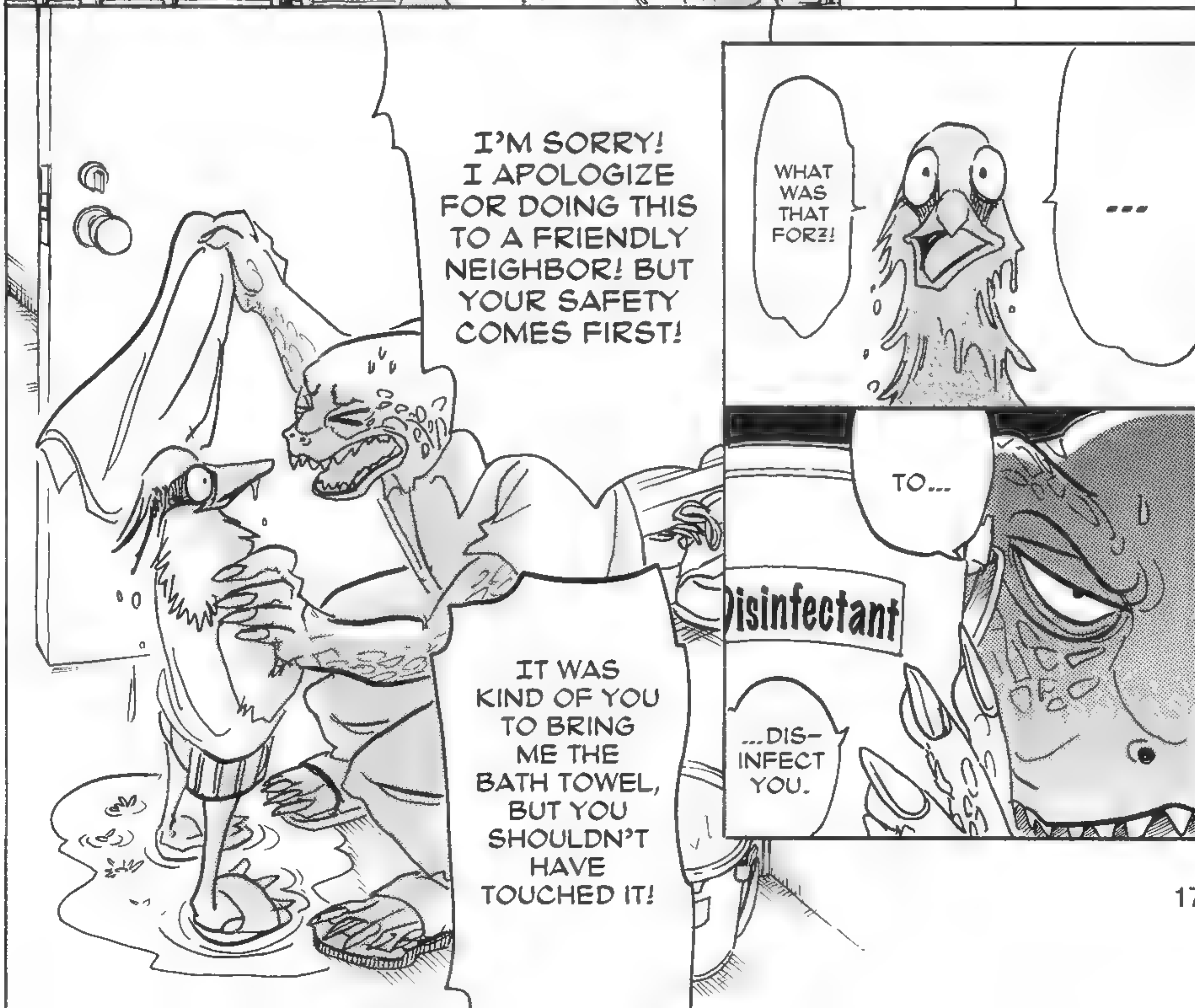
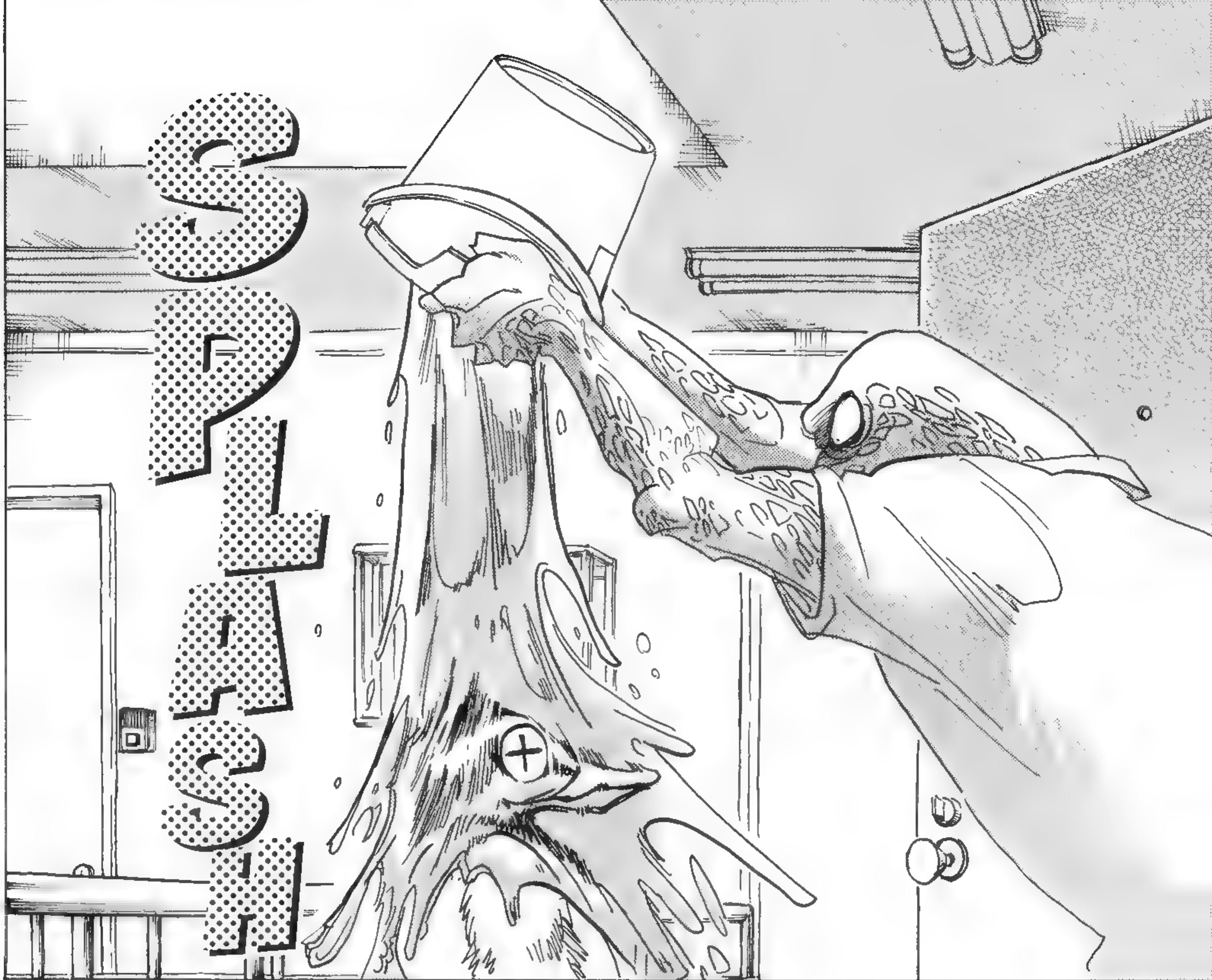
Chapter 142: Beasts Can Live as Long as a Century Now?!



*This is what they were saying on the previous page.









...WOULD
BE
ENOUGH
TO...

EVEN A
TINY DROP
ON AN
OBJECT
I USE
EVERY
DAY...

KOMODO
DRAGON
POISON IS
DEADLY!

...ROT
YOUR
FLESH!

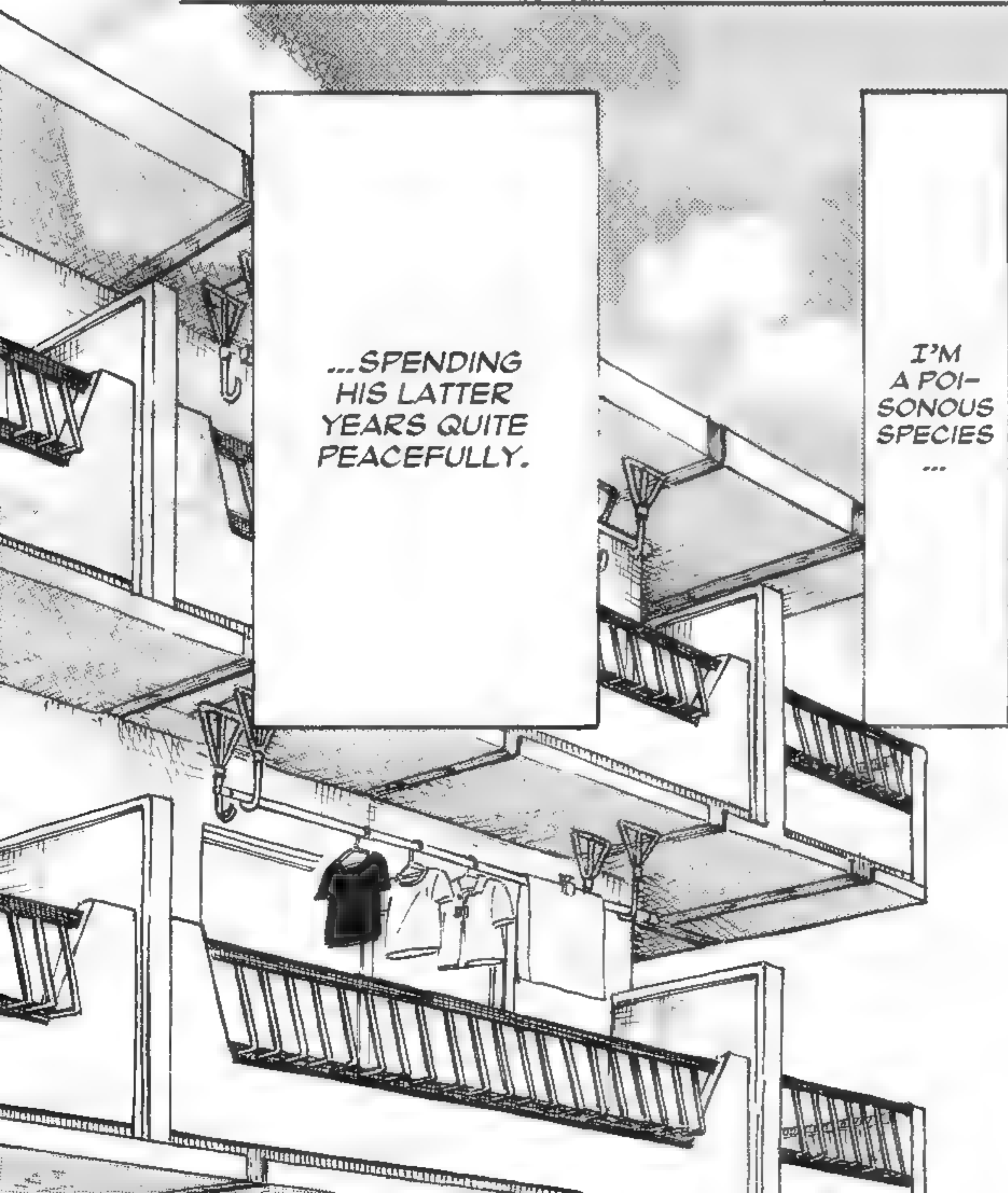


I'm
fine!
Really!

YOU
WORRY
TO MUCH
ABOUT YOUR
POISON,
GOSHA.

Ha
ha
ha
ha

YOU'RE
EXAGGER-
ATING!



...SPENDING
HIS LATTER
YEARS QUITE
PEACEFULLY.

I'M
A POI-
SONOUS
SPECIES
...



I'M
AN
OLD
KOMODO
DRAGON.

SOR-
RY...

KEEP
THAT
DISIN-
FECTANT
WARMED
UP FOR
ME NEXT
TIME,
OKAY?
HA HA...

I'M MORE
LIKELY TO
CATCH A
CHILL...

I PRAY
THAT MY
GRAND-
SON
LEGOSHI
IS HAPPY
AND
HEALTHY.

I SET
OUT AN
OFFERING
OF RICE
AND WATER
FOR MY
WIFE AND
DAUGHTER
EVERY
MORNING.

I COME
HOME IN
THE
EVENING
AT EIGHT
AND
WATCH
THE NEWS
WHILE
EATING
DINNER.

An old
Komodo
dragon
can still
work
hard.

SOME-
TIMES I
PICK UP
A SHIFT
AT A
CON-
STRUC-
TION
SITE ON
WEEK-
DAYS.

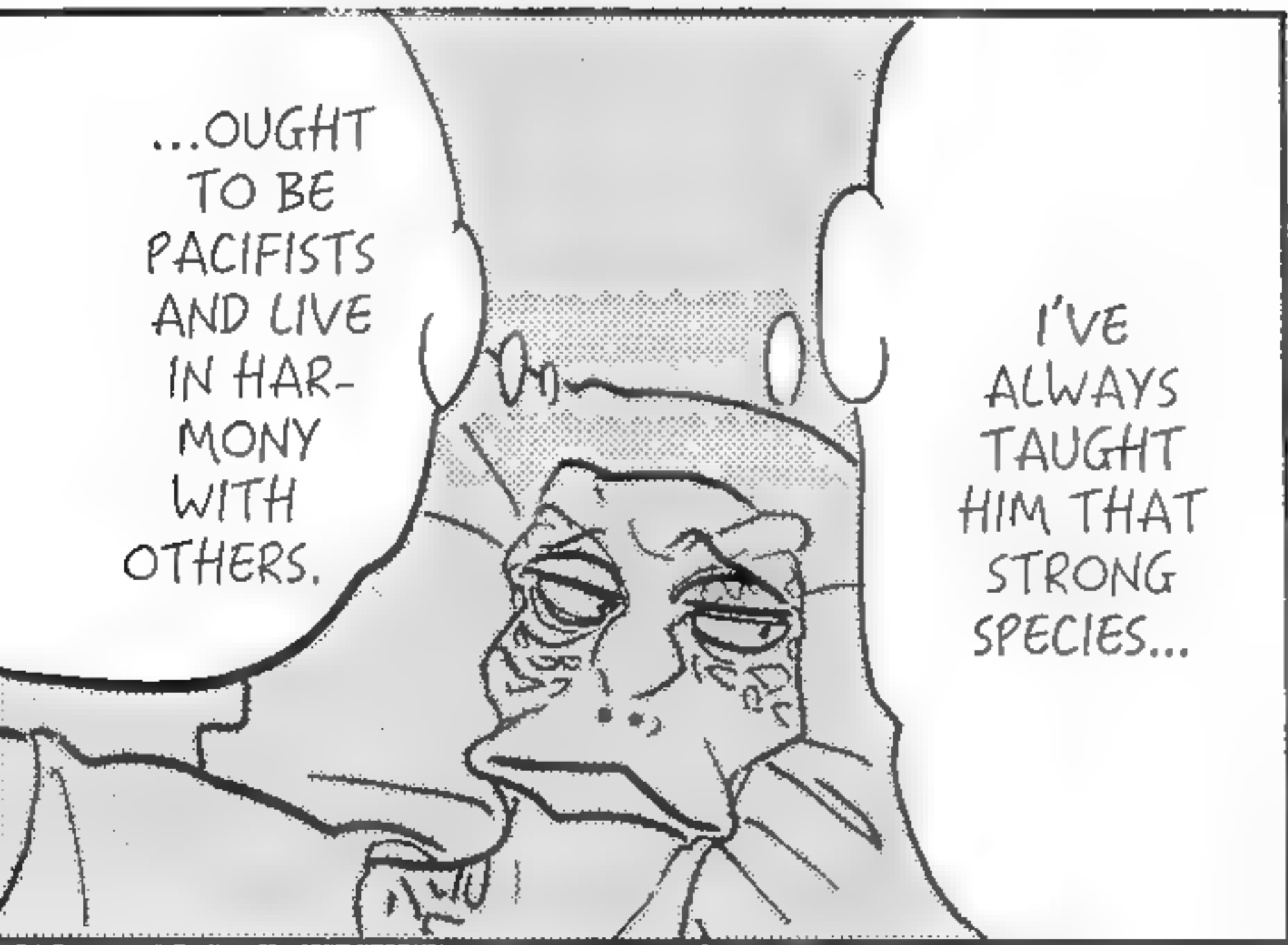
I RECENTLY
BOUGHT AN AIR
CONDITIONER
FOR COLD-
BLOODED
BEASTS. IT
HELPS ME
SLEEP
BETTER.

OH,
THAT'S
WHY
THAT
WATER
WAS SO
COLD...

THEN
GO TO
BED AT
TEN.

...BECAUSE
I WAS SO
WORRIED
ABOUT
LEGOSHI.

I WAS
SLEEP-
ING
FITFUL-
LY...



...OUGHT
TO BE
PACIFISTS
AND LIVE
IN HAR-
MONY
WITH
OTHERS.

I'VE
ALWAYS
TAUGHT
HIM THAT
STRONG
SPECIES...



THAT'LL
CHEER
ME UP.

OH!
TOMOR-
ROW'S
SATUR-
DAY...



HE
BARELY
SURVIVED
GETTING
SHOT.
I CAN'T
BEAR TO
WATCH
HIM GET
MIXED UP
IN MORE
VIOLENCE.

...gagaga...

LEGOSHI
REMINDS
ME OF MY
YOUNGER
DAYS,
WHEN
I WAS
ALWAYS
UP FOR A
BATTLE.
I WISH HE
HADN'T
TAKEN
AFTER
ME.



BECAUSE
THAT'S
THE DAY
I GO TO A
SPECIAL
PLACE
NEAR THE
BLACK
MARKET—
A NON-
DESCRIPT
LOCATION
THAT
DOESN'T
ATTRACT
ATTENTION.



FDGT FDGT

A PLACE
THAT
BRIGHTENS
MY
HUMDRUM
LIFE...



SATURDAY
IS MY
FAVORITE
DAY OF
THE
WEEK!



Give me
money





THIS NURSERY
TAKES CARE OF
MIXED-SPECIES
CHILDREN WHO
HAVE BEEN
REJECTED BY
OTHER NURSERY
SCHOOLS.



CHILDREN WHO OBVIOUSLY
LOOK LIKE MIXED-SPECIES
BEASTS DRAW UNWANTED
ATTENTION. A LOT OF
PUREBLOOD BEASTS ARE
UNCOMFORTABLE
AROUND THEM.







HERE
WE GO!

ALL
RIGHT, THEN.
TODAY
I'LL READ
YOU FEAR
BOY.

Once upon a time,
there was an old male
and an old female.
The old male went
to get rid of his fleas.
The old woman went
to bathe in the river.
When she got there,
she saw a huge pear
floating...



Once upon a time,
there was an old male

"ONCE UPON A
TIME, THERE WAS
AN OLD MALE
AND AN OLD
FEMALE..."

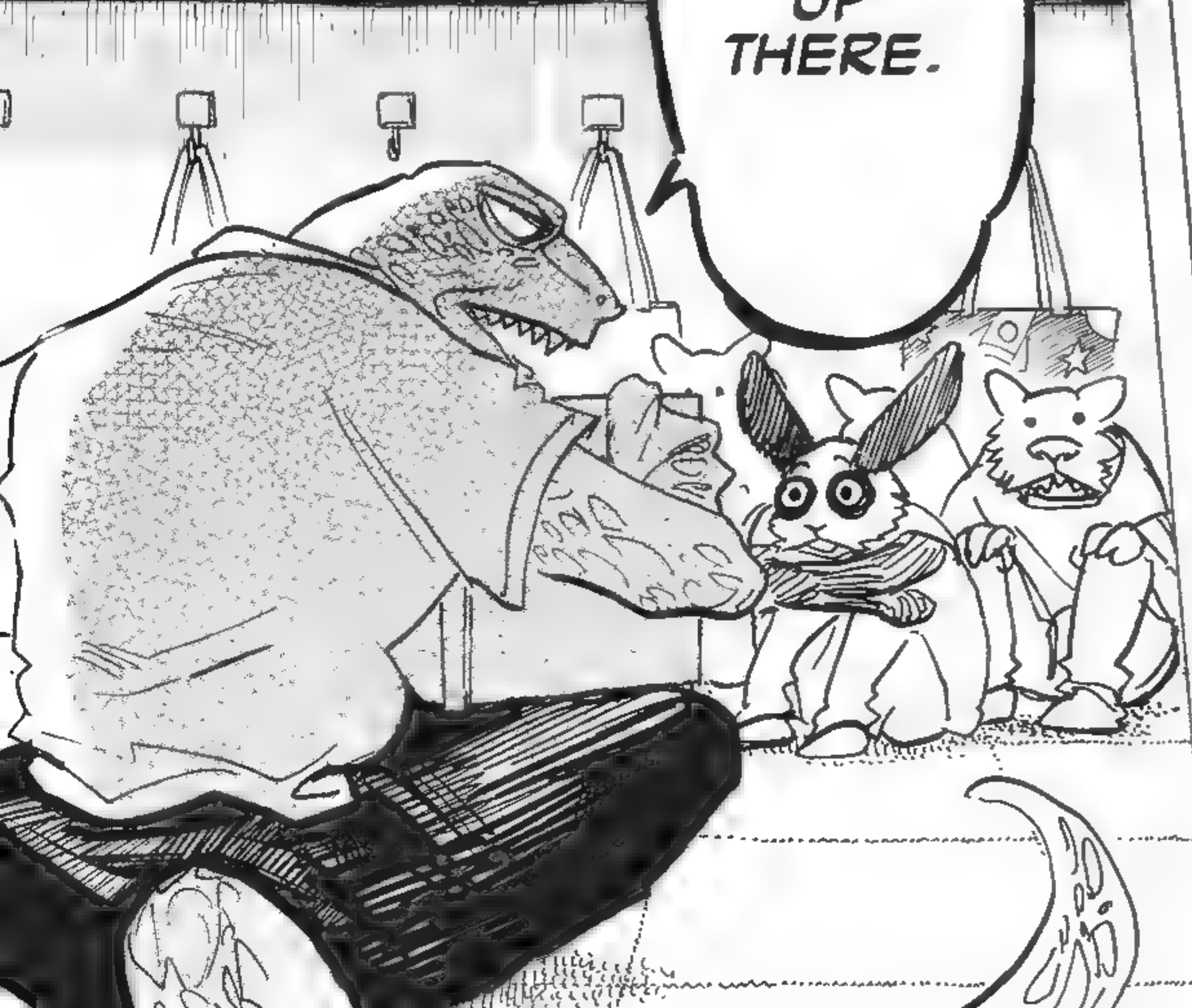
GOSHA!
YOU'RE
HOLDING THE
BOOK UPSIDE
DOWN!



OH...
YOU'RE RIGHT!
SORRY!

YES,
IT IS HARD
TO READ
UPSIDE
DOWN.

IT'S
HARD
TO READ
THAT
WAY.



...LIKE
THAT
CLEANER
UP
THERE.

THOSE BEASTS
AREN'T AFRAID TO
VIEW OUR WORLD
FROM THE
OPPOSITE
PERSPECTIVE.

HOWEVER...
THERE ARE
SPECIES WHO LIVE
THEIR **WHOLE**
LIVES HANGING
UPSIDE DOWN.
THEY CAN READ
THIS BOOK WHILE
I'M HOLDING
IT THE
WRONG WAY.



YOU
MEAN...
BEASTS
LIKE
BATS?

THAT'S
RIGHT.

...THAT
INDI-
CATES
THAT
THEY'RE
NER-
VOUS...

SO IF THOSE
BEASTS TWIST
THEIR NECKS TO
LOOK AT THE
WORLD AS
WE SEE IT...



Once upon a time,
there was an old male
and an old female.

The old male went
to get rid of his fleas
The old woman went
to bathe in the river
When she got there,
she saw a huge pear
floating...





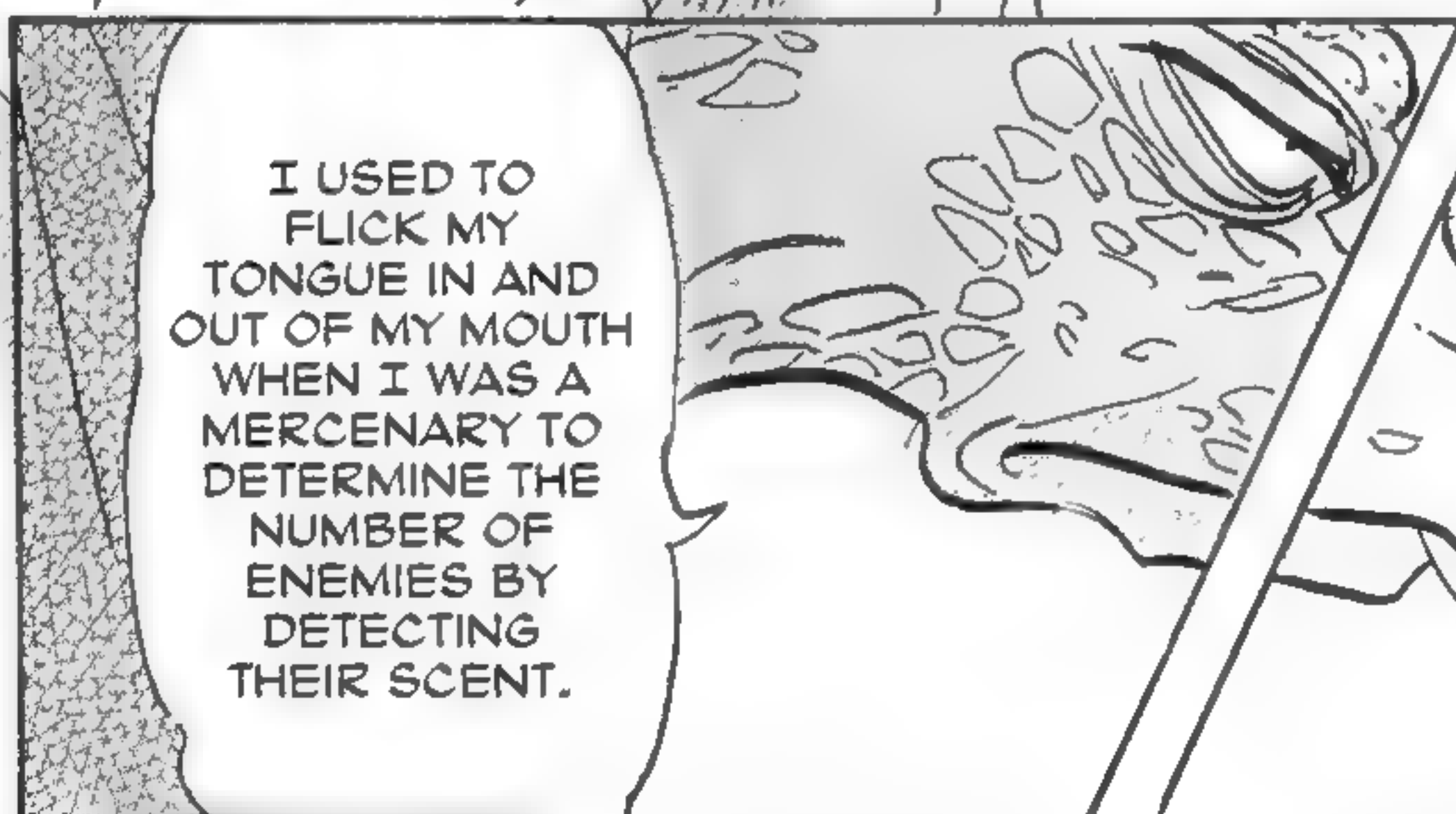
RTTL
CHAK



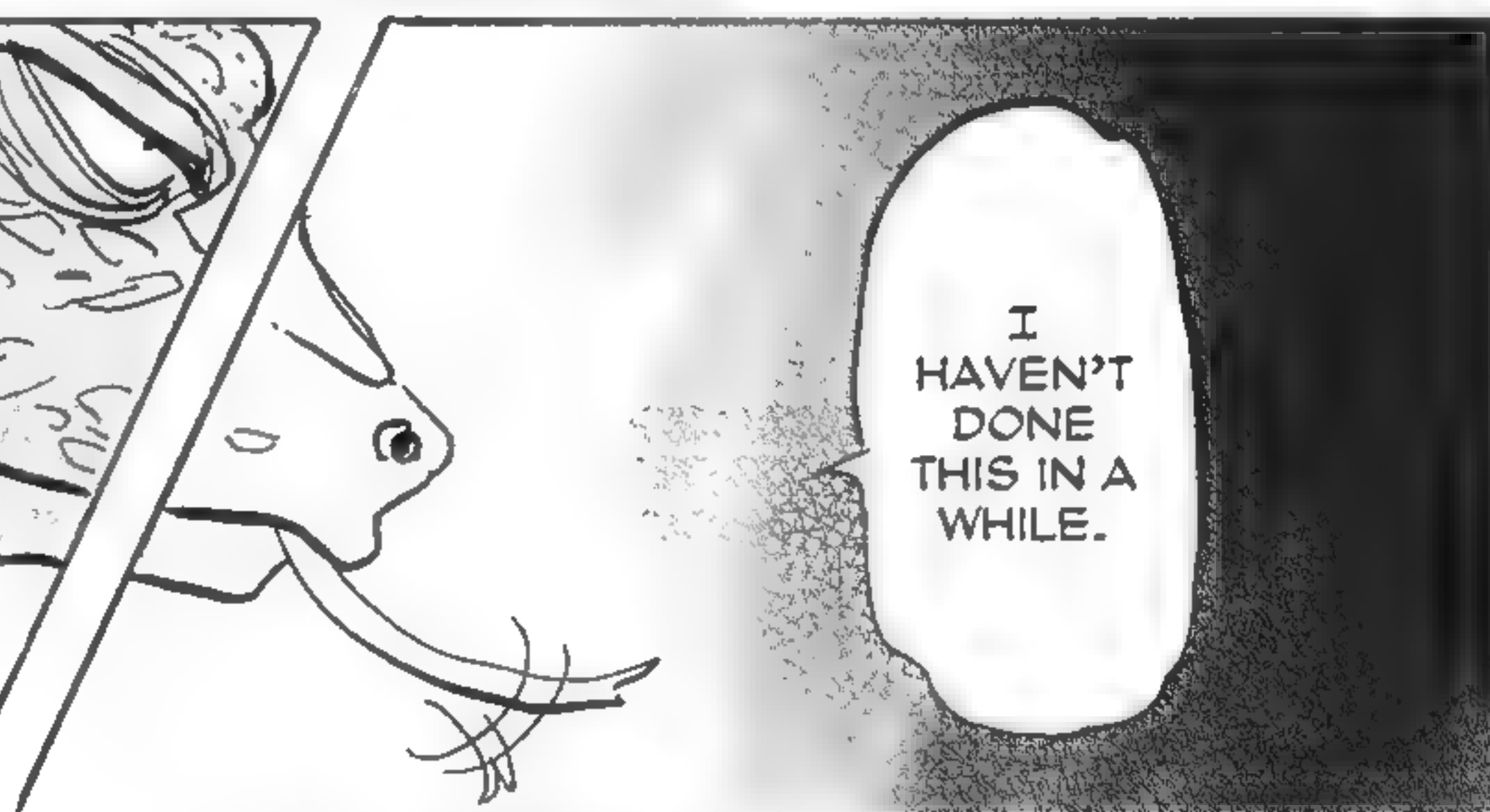
GOSHA...
AREN'T
YOU GOING
TO READ
US THE
REST OF
THE
BOOK?



I WILL
LATER. I
PROMISE.



I USED TO
FLICK MY
TONGUE IN AND
OUT OF MY MOUTH
WHEN I WAS A
MERCENARY TO
DETERMINE THE
NUMBER OF
ENEMIES BY
DETECTING
THEIR SCENT.



I
HAVEN'T
DONE
THIS IN A
WHILE.



THAT'S
WHY I'M
HERE.

THIS IS A
SPECIAL
NURSERY
SCHOOL...
I'M NOT
SURPRISED TO
SEE A BEAST
LIKE YOU
INFILTRATING
IT.

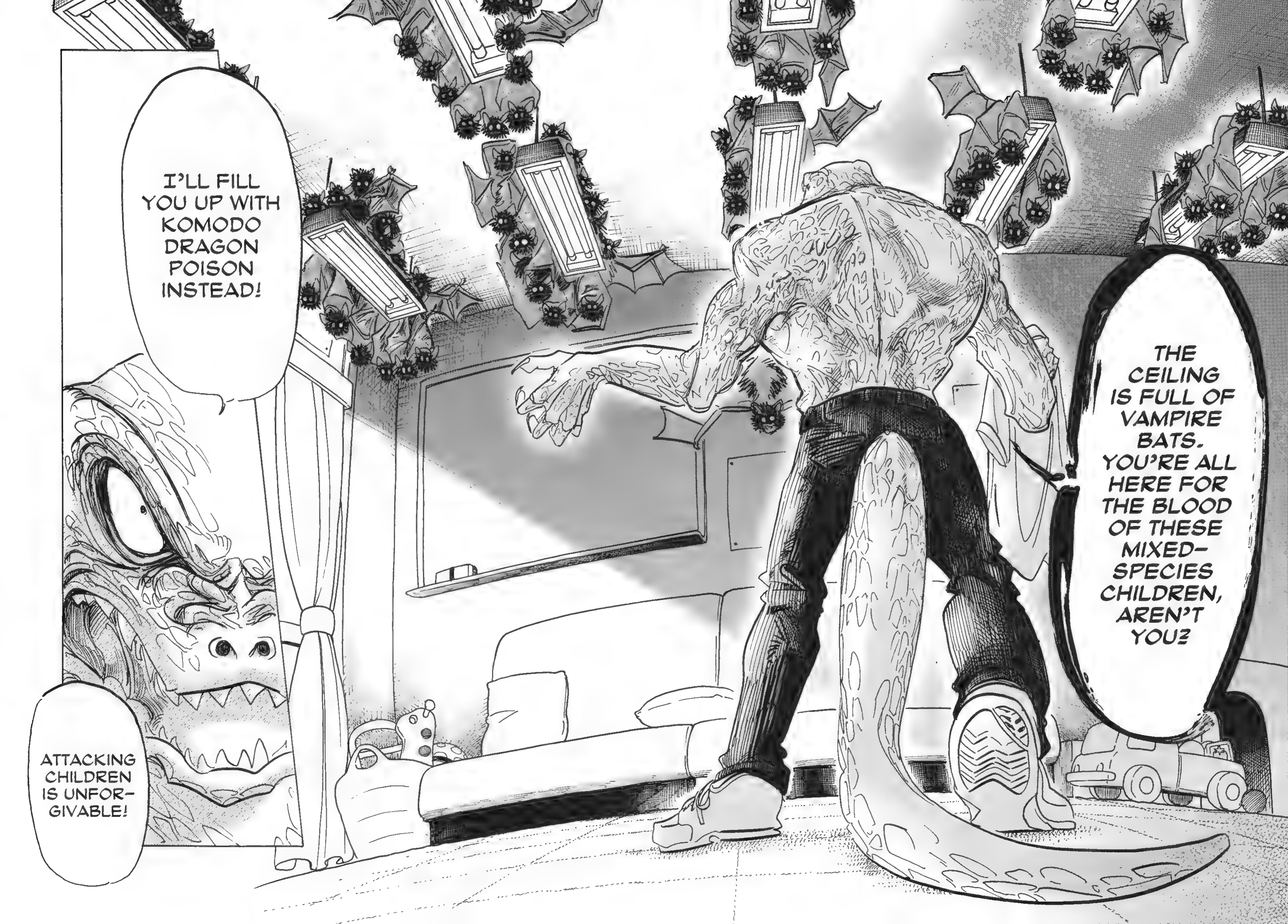
BUT I
AM SUR-
PRISED
THAT
THERE
ARE SO
MANY OF
YOU...

Wash
your paws!

Garg



I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
COME
HERE
TODAY...



I'LL FILL
YOU UP WITH
KOMODO
DRAGON
POISON
INSTEAD!

THE
CEILING
IS FULL OF
VAMPIRE
BATS.
YOU'RE ALL
HERE FOR
THE BLOOD
OF THESE
MIXED-
SPECIES
CHILDREN,
AREN'T
YOU?

ATTACKING
CHILDREN
IS UNFOR-
GIVABLE!



TELL
ME
ABOUT
THEM.

A PURE-
SPECIES
SUPREMACY
GROUP
...?!



THEY'RE
EXTREMISTS.
THEY
BELIEVE ONLY
PUREBLOOD
BEASTS
SHOULD EXIST.
THEIR MISSION
IS TO
ERADICATE
MIXED-
SPECIES
BEASTS.

THEY
OPERATE
IN SECRET.
NO ONE
OUTSIDE
THE BLACK
MARKET
KNOWS
ABOUT
THEM.

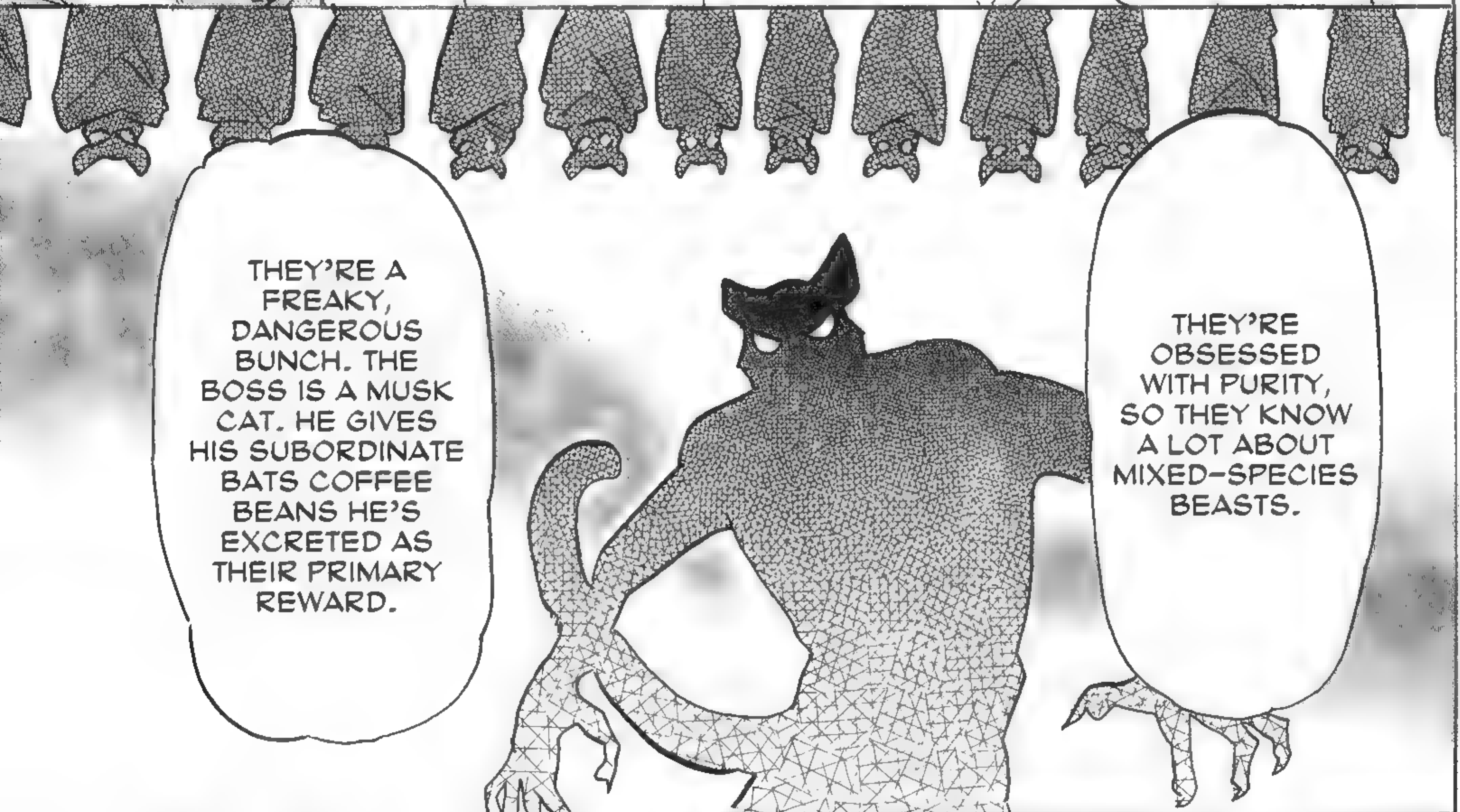
WE DON'T
KNOW
HOW MANY
MEMBERS
THERE
ARE.



THEY CAN
TELL US
WHAT
MELON'S
WEAKNESS
IS.

That's
messed
up...

ARE YOU
TELLING ME
THEY'RE
MELON'S
WEAKNESS?
YOU'RE
COUNTING ON
THIS GROUP
TO TAKE OUT
MELON?



THEY'RE A
FREAKY,
DANGEROUS
BUNCH. THE
BOSS IS A MUSK
CAT. HE GIVES
HIS SUBORDINATE
BATS COFFEE
BEANS HE'S
EXCRETED AS
THEIR PRIMARY
REWARD.

THEY'RE
OBSESSED
WITH PURITY,
SO THEY KNOW
A LOT ABOUT
MIXED-SPECIES
BEASTS.



YEP.
IN SOME
WAYS, THOSE
FELINES ARE
EVEN MORE
FORMIDABLE
THAN LIONS
AND TIGERS.

A MUSK
CAT...
THAT'S
A RARE
SPECIES.
ALSO
KNOWN AS
THE CIVET
CAT,
RIGHT?

BUT
ASKING
THEM FOR
INFORMA-
TION IS OUR
ONLY
OPTION.

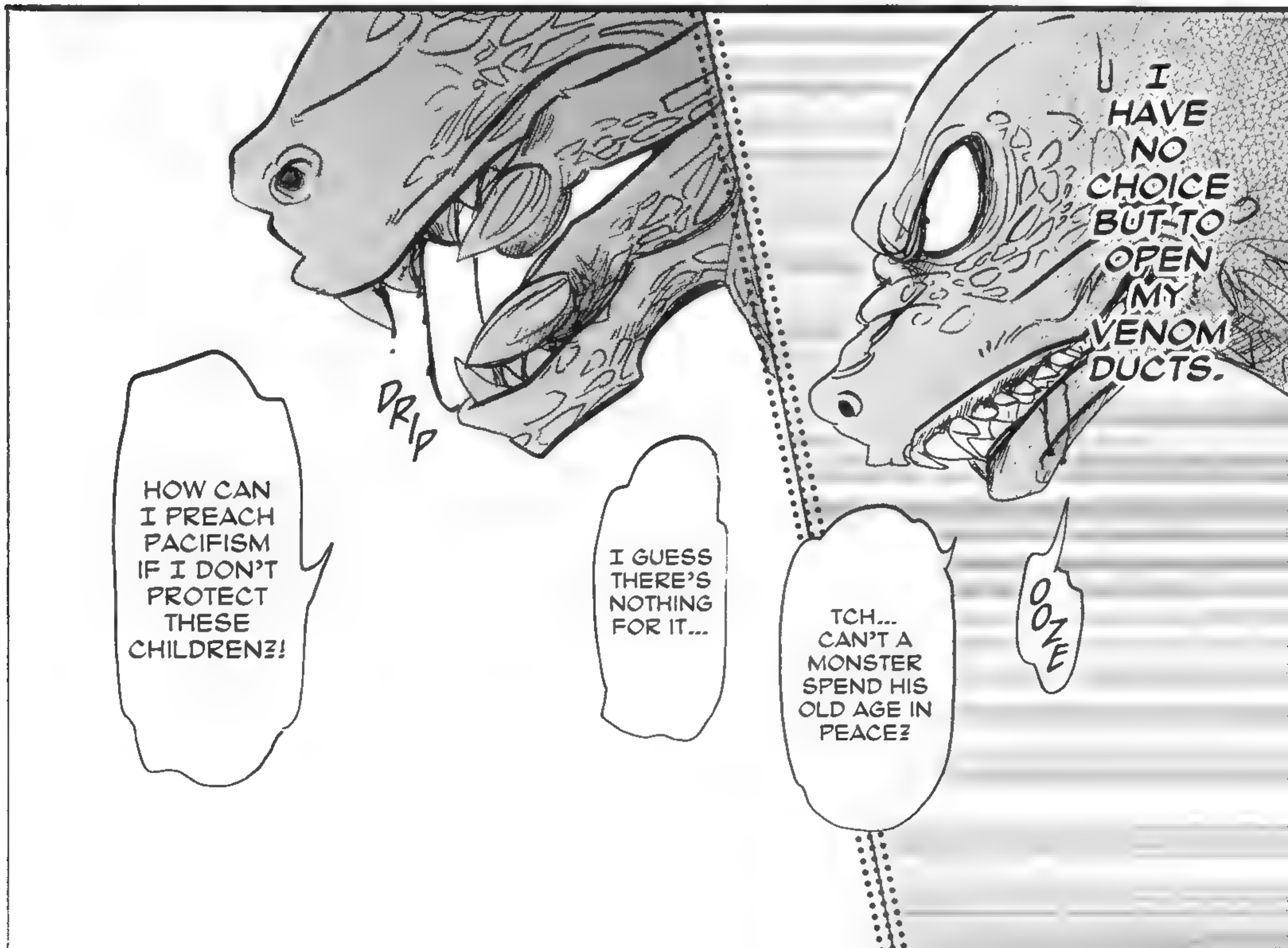
THE BATS WHO
WORK FOR HIM
MUST BE TOUGH
CUSTOMERS TOO.



THERE
ARE
TOO
MANY
OF
THEM!

WHAT...

...THE
HELL?



I
HAVE
NO
CHOICE
BUT TO
OPEN
MY
VENOM
DUCTS.

HOW CAN
I PREACH
PACIFISM
IF I DON'T
PROTECT
THESE
CHILDREN?

I GUESS
THERE'S
NOTHING
FOR IT...

TCH...
CAN'T A
MONSTER
SPEND HIS
OLD AGE IN
PEACE?

OZE



I'LL
TURN
EVERY
ONE OF
YOU INTO
ZOMBIES!



THEY'RE
NAMED
AFTER THE
FANCY
COFFEE
MUSK CATS
PRODUCE.

ARGH...
I BET THEIR
BOSS IS
SUPER
SCARY...

THEIR
GANG IS
CALLED
KOPI
LUWAK.

I
HOPE
THEY
COME
BACK
SOON!

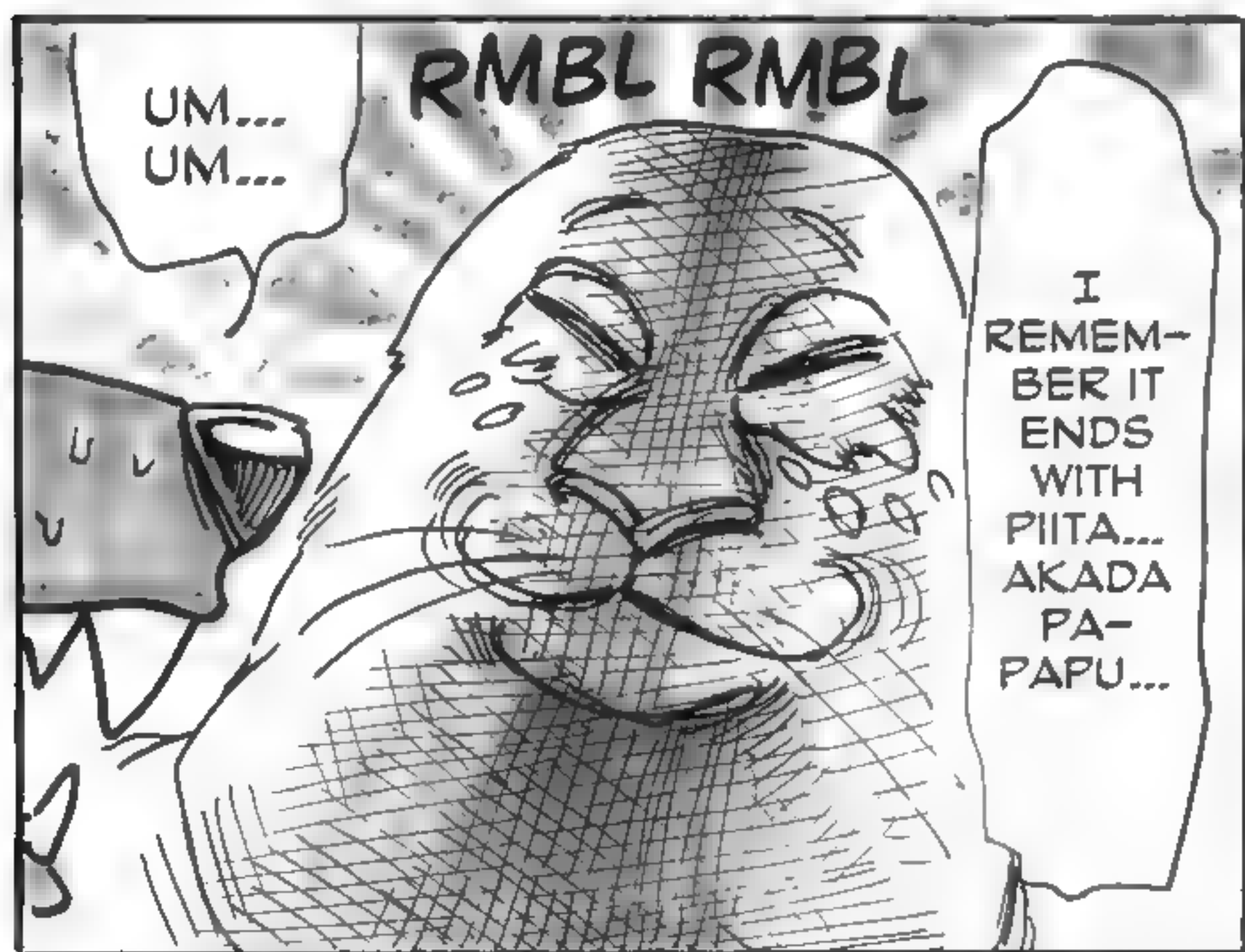
I'M
THEIR BOSS.
IT'S THE
LEAST I
CAN DO.

GRIND
KRRKCH
GRIND
KRRKCH

I'LL GRIND
THIS COFFEE
FOR THE BATS'
REWARD WHEN
THEY RETURN.



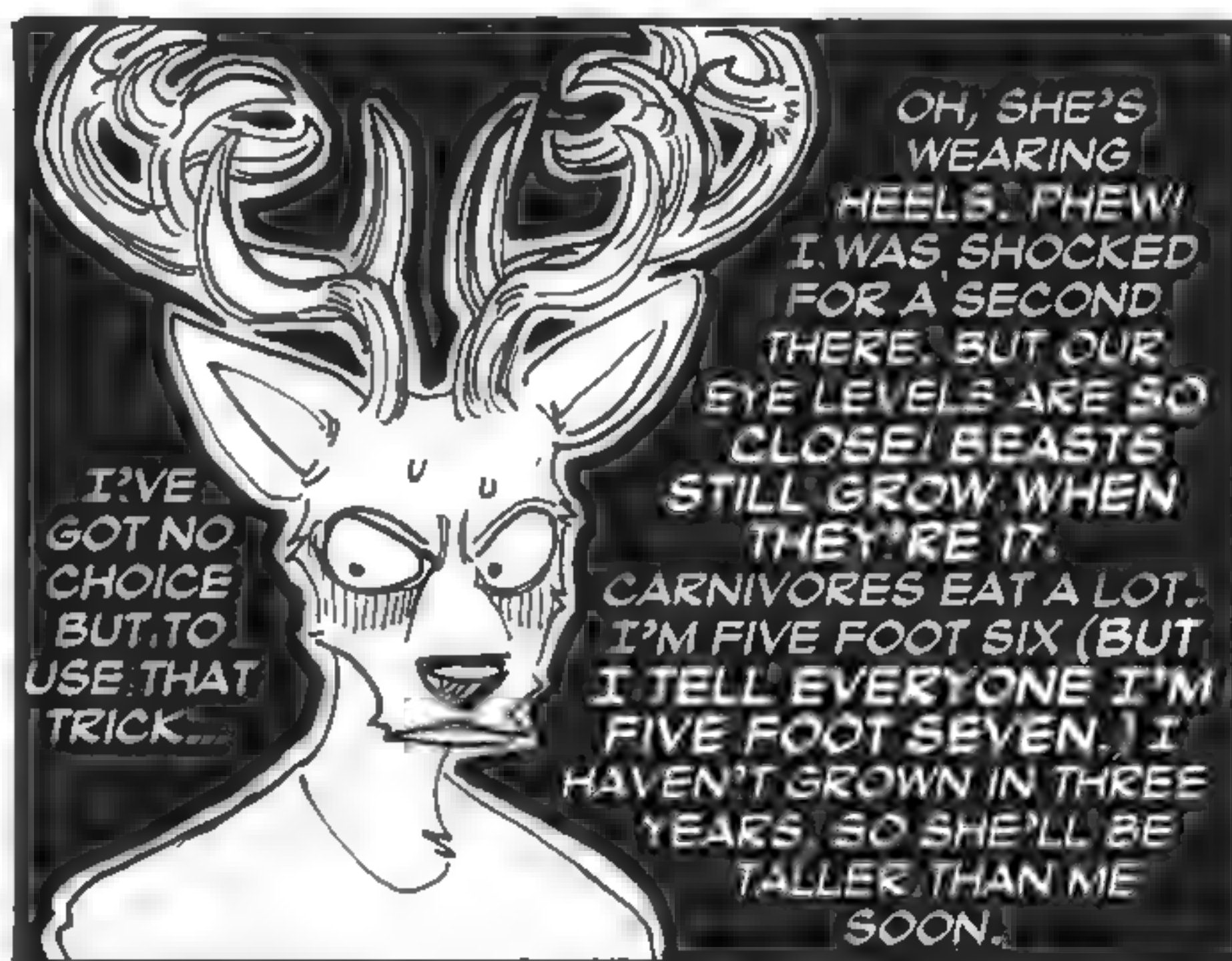
The Inside Story of Chapter 141



A Funny Anecdote from Chapter 136



A store window



*Continues on p. 9 of ch. 136.

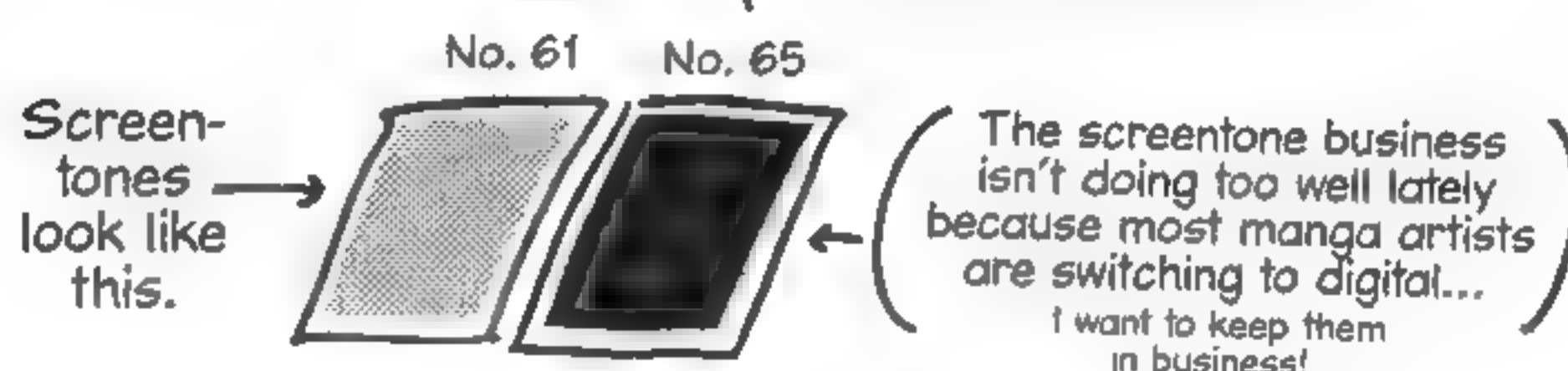
BEASTARS

SCRATCHED screen- tones and PLAIN screen- tones

I'm not sure if you readers are interested in a how-to about such detailed techniques, but here goes... I absolutely love determining a well-defined light source in a panel and putting shadows on the characters!



Maybe it's because I learned how interesting lighting is when I studied filmmaking in college. In manga, screentone is used to produce shadows.



We use two types of screentones at the BEASTARS workplace.



GET
AHOLD
OF
YOUR-
SELF!

WHAT
THE
HELL
...?!

HUH?

← The first one is the screentone as is. These screentones aren't scratched. I do almost all of this work myself. That's because I'm not good at the scratching... Scraping screentones with a small blade requires a lot of training and practice. My assistants are experts at it.

Even just a little bit of scratching makes the character look more three-dimensional and the drawing very polished!

I apply the plain screentones while my assistants are busy with other work. I don't dislike the task. Weirdly, I enjoy the stress of cutting them precisely. There's so much to learn about screentone work!

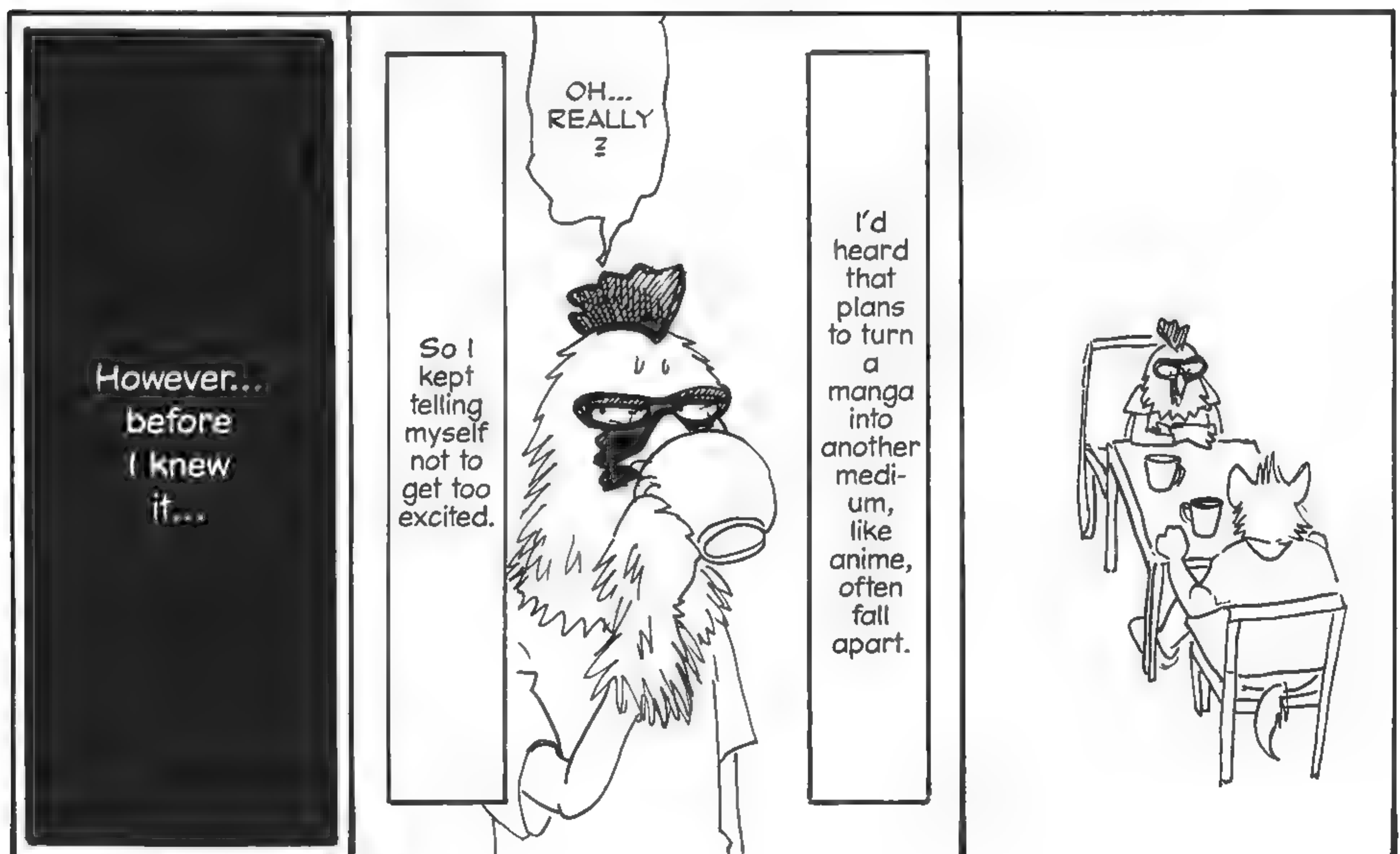


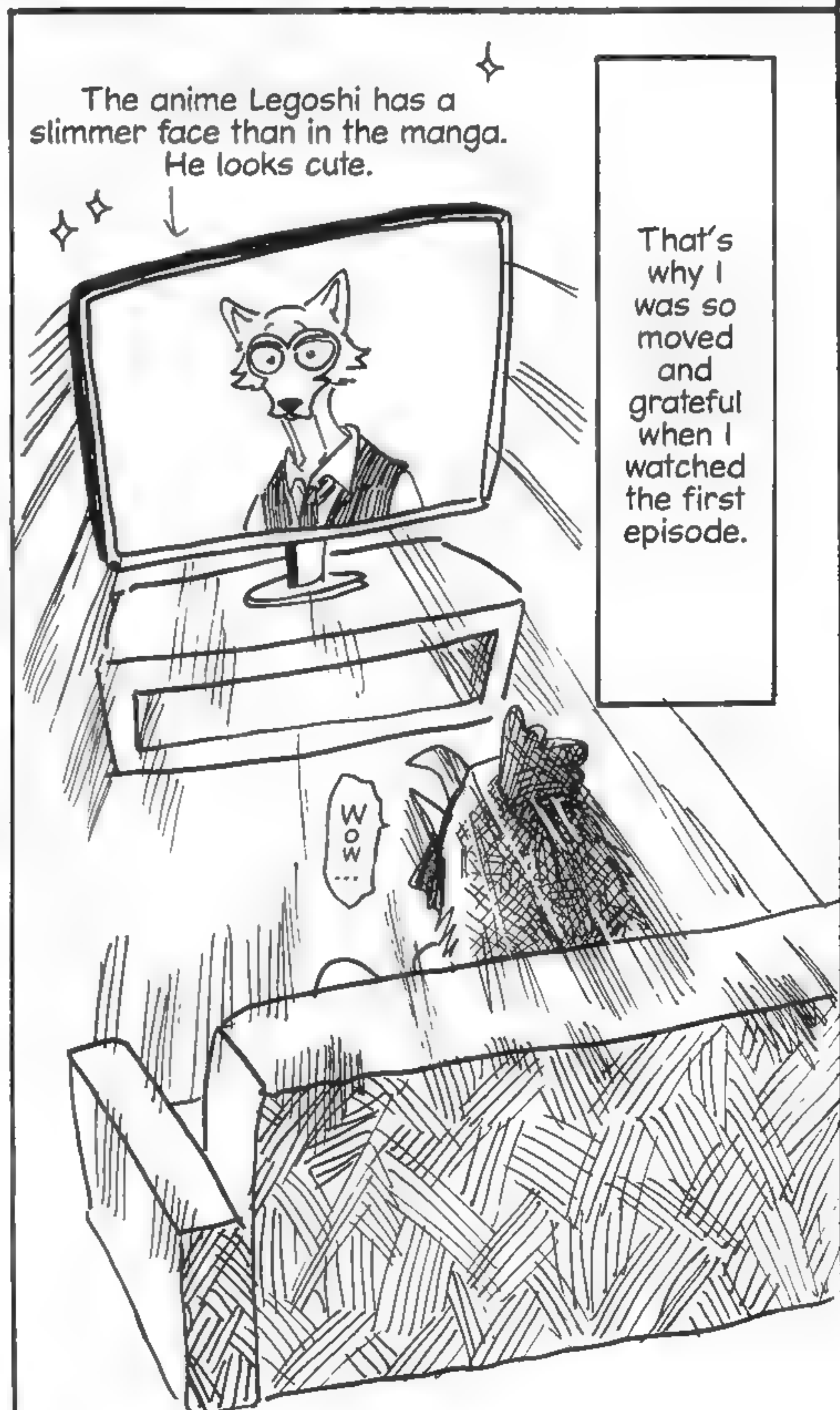
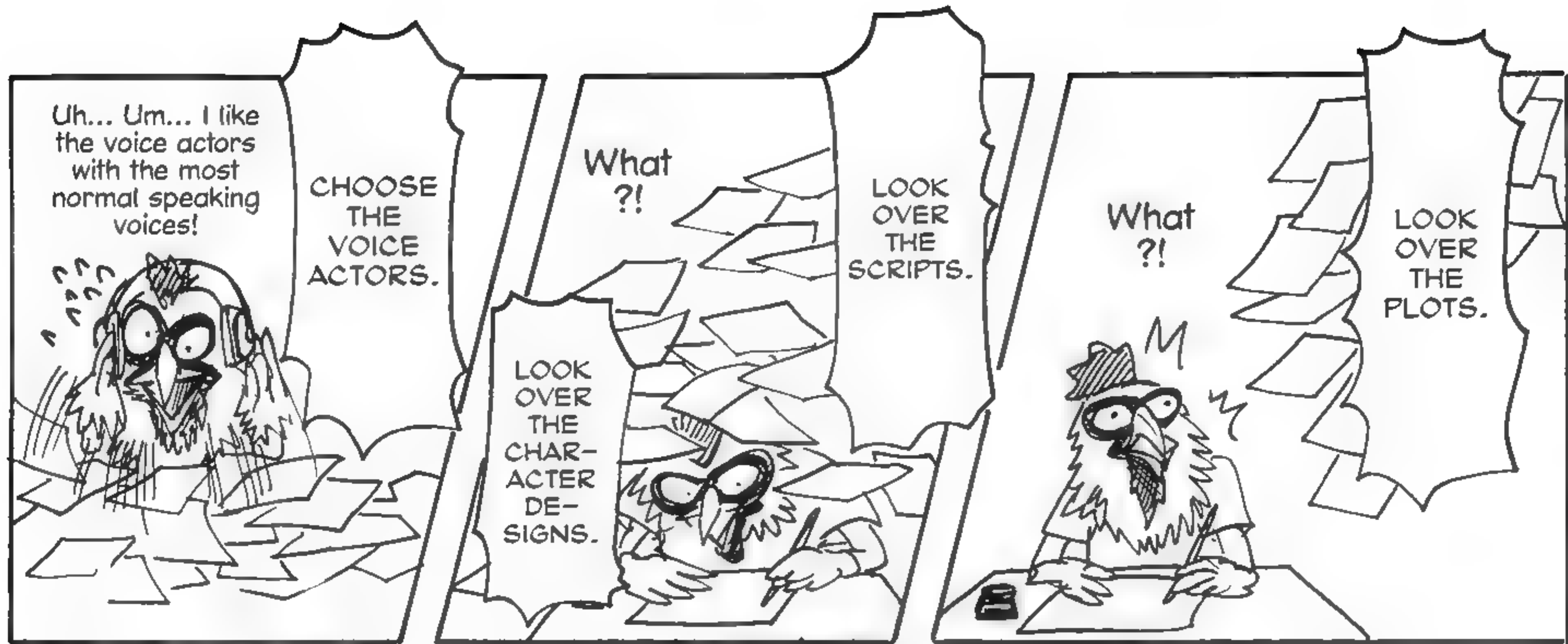
I'M IN
LOVE
WITH YOUR
DAUGHTER!

What Happened when BEASTARS Became an Anime



I thought something dramatic like this would happen when your editor tells you your manga is going to be an anime. But what actually happened was...





BEASTARS

Vol. 16

Paru Itagaki

~ Chapter 50 ~

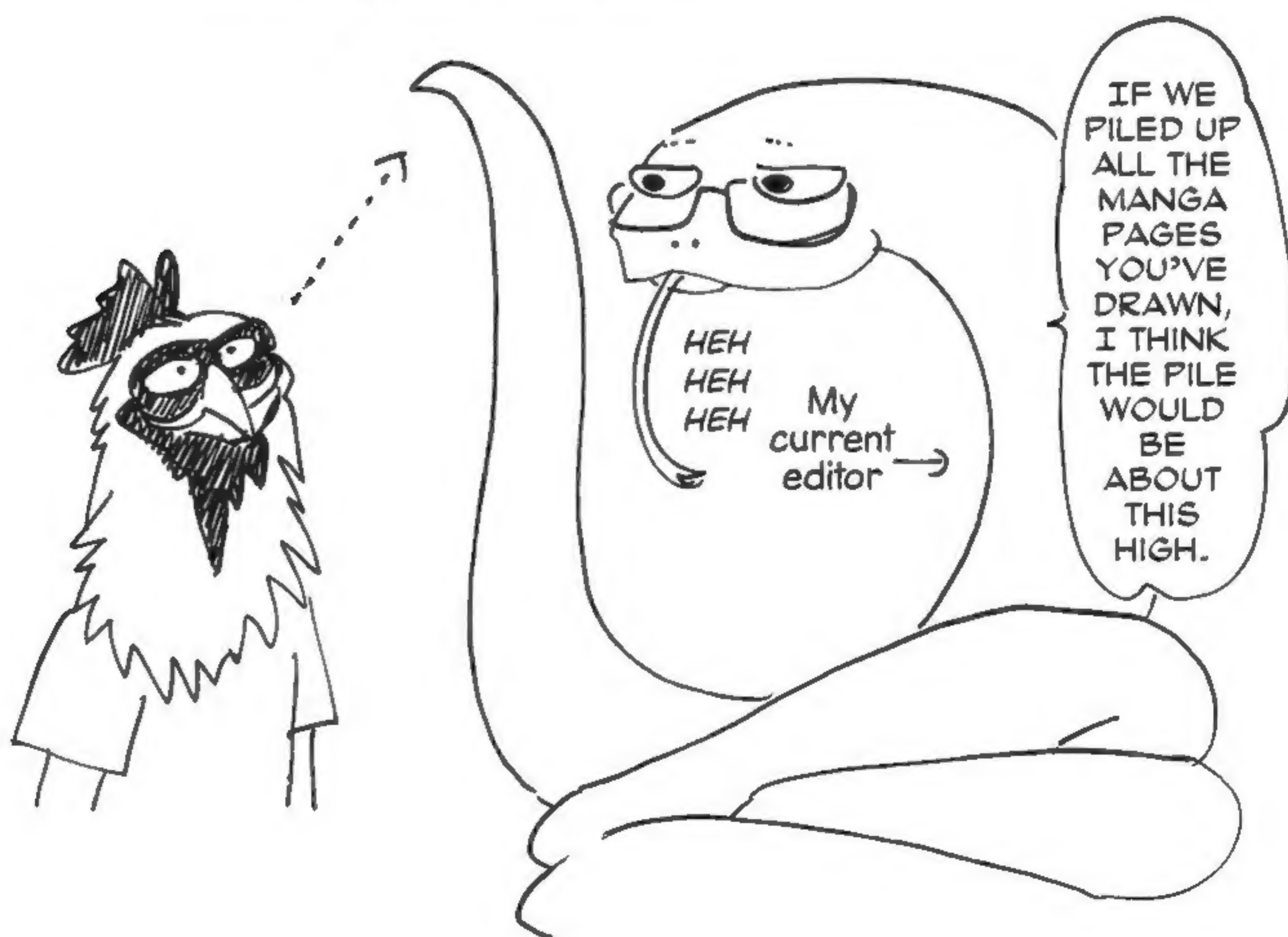


~ Chapter 100 ~



~ Chapter 150 ~

Weekly
Champion
editors
really like
talking
about the
height of
my pile
of manga
pages.



I'm going to record what I was thinking when I was drawing *Beastars*, something like the "inside story."

This is about chapter 100, "When the Train Is Packed" (volume 12). I have strong feelings about this chapter, partly because 100 is a round number. Seven's heart was shattered because she'd been discriminated against and harassed at her workplace for a very long time. There's a scene near the end of the chapter where she taps her cheek three times in front of Legoshi. In the *Beastars* world, this is equivalent to committing suicide. It meant she was asking Legoshi to eat her.

This scene was inspired by a personal experience.

The incident occurred when I was in high school. I had a quarrel with a friend over something trivial, and the friend stopped talking to me for a long time. Like Seven, I wasn't aware at first that my heart had been shattered. I had trouble sleeping at night, and I hated going to school every day.

I was sitting in the train on the way home from school one day when a man with a large build and glassy eyes came and stood in front of me. All of a sudden I thought, "I wish this man would kidnap me." I was hoping my friend would worry about me if I were kidnapped. But the main reason is that I wanted to run away from my problems. I was so desperate that I looked the man straight in the eye. I even smiled slightly at him. (What the hell was I doing?!) Come to think of it, I was making assumptions about this man as well as disrespecting him. I regretted my actions. That's why I had Legoshi rebuke Seven by saying "You're being disrespectful" and then push her out of the train.

I thought being a female high school student made me special somehow. I felt like a victim because a friend was ignoring me. Then there was the thrill of seducing (did that count as seducing?) someone of the opposite sex on a crowded train. I thought I was tired of life, but I wasn't really. All of that made me fall into the trap of such self-centered behavior.

I don't think I've ever behaved as badly and creepily since then. I wonder why this memory of the unpleasantness that people possess inside has remained in my heart for such a long time. The incident on the train was over in a flash. It happened almost ten years ago, yet it left a lasting impression on me. Am I indulging in this memory and falling into the trap of self-absorption even now? (If that's true, I really, really suck.)

I was hoping I'd eventually be able to sublimate this creepy and intense experience by incorporating it into my manga. That's why I drew chapter 100. Seven isn't as creepy as I was. And she has to deal with problems way more serious than mine. I think that's why this chapter didn't turn out to be uncomfortable to read.



I typed the above on my PC because I thought, "Handwriting all that will be a pain!" But now it looks like a nasty anonymous letter. Printed text seems more bitter than handwritten text somehow. That's weird. I guess I've discovered something. (There's no bitterness in what I wrote though...)



WHEN PEOPLE USED TO ASK ME WHY I STILL
DREW MY MANGA 100 PERCENT BY HAND, I
COULDN'T GIVE THEM A CLEAR-CUT ANSWER
BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHY MYSELF.
BUT RECENTLY I REALIZED IT'S BECAUSE
TOOLS YOU CAN TOUCH AND FEEL ARE
INTRINSICALLY SATISFYING.

PARU ITAGAKI

Paru Itagaki began her professional career as a manga author in 2016 with the short story collection **BEAST COMPLEX**.

BEASTARS is her first serialization.

BEASTARS has won multiple awards in Japan, including the prestigious 2018 Manga Taisho Award.

BEASTARS

VOL. 16

VIZ Signature Edition

Story & Art by

Paru Itagaki

Translation/Tomo Kimura

English Adaptation/Annette Roman

Touch-Up Art & Lettering/Susan Daigle-Leach

Cover & Interior Design/Yukiko Whitley

Editor/Annette Roman

BEASTARS Volume 16

© 2019 PARU ITAGAKI

All rights reserved.

First published in 2019 by Akita Publishing Co., Ltd., Tokyo

English translation rights arranged with Akita Publishing Co., Ltd., through
Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc., Tokyo

The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are
entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any
means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC

P.O. Box 77010

San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, January 2022

VIZ MEDIA

viz.com

VIZ SIGNATURE

vizsignature.com



PARENTAL ADVISORY

BEASTARS is rated T+ and is recommended
for ages 16 and up. It contains adult themes,
sexual situations, and violence.